

UFO REVIEW

The Truth is just taking a shower. He wants to be clean for his big day.

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**25th Anniversary of Rendlesham Forest Landing.
Aliens Make Sentimental Return Visit – Just For Old
Time's Sake.**



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Welcome



As we move into this New Year, I am mildly optimistic for the progress of Ufology over the next twelve months. Some might reasonably ask where I get this optimism from but the trick I feel is not to raise your hopes too high. I base my comments not on the expectation of something big happening because as we all truly know, it never does. Instead, I find myself impressed with the enthusiasm and intelligent ideas of many in the field and I feel there is hope for a more structured and better organised approach to the subject over the coming months.

For my own part, I may as well voice my own ambitions which up until now, except for a few individuals in whom I have confided, I have tended to keep under my belt. Actually why I'm so secretive is beyond me but I suspect that is a character failing on my part. The fact is, my ambition will hardly be a surprise and that is to take UFO Review into print.

The one weakness I have is that I am alone, as in fact I always have been in my professional life. I would have given anything when I ran my own business for many years, as I did, to have had a brother or a partner that I could trust. One person *is* capable of achieving things on their own but it is always so much better when one has someone else to bounce ideas off. Of course, partnerships are fraught with danger but I recognise my limitations and can see the areas where I am most exposed.

But it would be nice if the UK once again had a Ufological newsstand publication and that is my goal. It's also the goal of one or two others as well and I wish them well too in their own quest for success.

It isn't easy, as anyone who has done this before will testify, and the more one reflects on what's involved and what one has to do once the cycle is started, the more one recognises just how stupid and inane a venture it is. Ergo it follows that I at least have to give it a try. We'll see.

I'd like to make one prediction for 2006 which I feel may well come about, and it's this. The Berwyn Mountain case will resurface again big time. For those of you unfamiliar with it, in January 1974, on a mountain in Wales, there was an "incident". The sceptical consensus these days is that the event was a tri-combination of bolides, earth lights, and a minor earthquake. Yep, three events rolled into one. The words "crash" and "UFO" were not appended to this case when it originally occurred and it was one that crept under the radar of the Ufological brigade back then. A hoax letter sent the whole thing spiralling off and it's bounced around ever since. Over the years and despite a plethora of witnesses, a thorough review of the case was beyond the ability of most although Andy Roberts has produced the most definitive account so far. Andy's work was very good but yet it still did not seem to quite satiate those that followed this case and although Andy would argue otherwise, there were still too many unanswered questions left over. Even if you want to remove the possibility of any Ufological connection to this case whatsoever, you are still caught in this trap of there being possibly three strange events all occurring virtually simultaneously and while strange things can and do happen in life, when they do, you have a hard time coming to terms with it all. The latter part of 2005 saw a resurgence of interest in this case and I have a feeling that more will follow on this.



The chances are that you came to this edition of UFO Review by picking up the lead from a Ufological message board or List, or something similar. There are an abundance of Ufologically related sites that come and go over time but two in particular have stayed the course and risen to the top. They are UFO UpDates and UfologyUK.

Of the two, the Toronto based Updates has been around the longest and is generally recognised as being the premier List. It has an abundance of well known names on it and the level of debate is of a higher order than average. This isn't by accident. The List has one unusual feature about it which enables the standard of posting to be maintained. It is permanently moderated which means that the moderator, Errol Bruce Knapp, checks and reads each and every mail before placing it up on the board. The bottom line there is that not every message sent in necessarily gets posted. Messages for example can be rejected simply because they are not laid out or formatted properly, and Errol doesn't have the time to make serious corrections to people's work himself. So if you don't get it right, you don't get on. The stated reason for messages having to be neat and tidy and laid out to an established format is because once posted on the board, they are then automatically sent to the Updates archives which have proven to be a great research source for many. The way the archives are set up means that it can only accept a message laid out in a particular manner.

There is another, incidental reason of course. As a result of correct formatting, messages are neat and tidy and easy to read, unlike on the majority of other boards where there is no moderation and reading some postings can be a severe strain on the eye. It is simply the setting of a standard, namely that if this is going to be done, then it's going to be done properly and reflects the fact that those taking part in the debates on Updates are adults, with many from an academic background.

Of course, all this "fussiness" can lead to frustration among some who just can't get their heads round what's needed.

And it also places Errol in a very formidable position for it could be argued that he controls what people read and therefore directly controls and influences what people in Ufology think.

Ufology UK, as the name implies, is UK based and is aimed at the British ufological scene. Its membership though is open to anyone, as is Updates. Joe McGonagle is the moderator but his style is different from Errol's, probably as a result of a lack of time, and usually postings are not moderated although just to be awkward, Joe is doing that at the moment as an experiment. It means that when someone presses the send key, usually within a few minutes their message appears on the board.

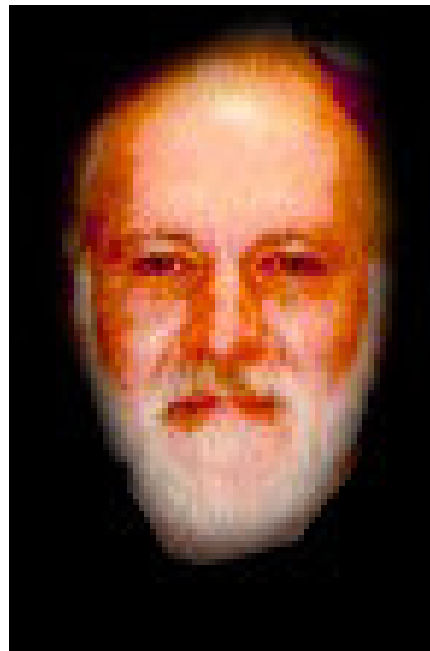
There is more of a British influence on Updates than there is a North American influence on UfologyUK and it shows. UfologyUK very much reflects the character and nature of British Ufology and there is an undoubted difference in temperament and spirit between the two.

As postings are not normally moderated, it does mean that Joe's overall influence on the scene is more subtle than Errol's. Errol very rarely posts on his own List unless it is to remind us about layout while Joe does post regularly on Ufology UK. That means he has a higher profile and as he expresses views and opinions, it also means he attracts criticism.

So; two different Lists in two different styles run by two different men. Who are they? What do we know about them? Who for God's sake are these guys that have it in their power to control what we read and think and fashion Ufological attitudes and opinion?

Might as well talk to them and find out for ourselves.

Errol Bruce-Knapp



SM: How old are you?

EBK: I'm 63 now.

SM: You were born, if I remember correctly, in Egypt?

EBK: Yes. My dad was an oxymoron; he was in military intelligence.

SM: Which military?

EBK: He's Canadian but at the outset of war in 1939, he signed up in the British army. My grandmother is Regency Brighton and my grandfather was Canadian. They met when she was a nurse and he was a wounded and was shipped back from France to the UK. They met when he was in hospital. It's a lovely, romantic story.

SM: How long did you spend in Egypt?

EBK: I was born to the sounds of the guns of El Alamein in October of '42. That was when the Germans under Rommel were coming back into Egypt and at that point it was decided it was safer to ship my mother and I back to the UK, or rather to the UK as my mother had never been there; a Greek woman born in Egypt, tenth generation cotton merchant family. So we got shipped to England and then eventually dad joined us back there. So that was the first time I was in Egypt and being an army brat, we went in 1945 to Gibraltar for three years and then back to the UK for three years, and then back to Egypt.

SM: So your first conscious memory would be in the UK or Gibraltar?

EBK: Actually in the UK. I remember my grandmother and my mother trying to shield me during a daylight bombing raid on London. I remember that. I also remember what they call the barrage balloons. They were anti aircraft balloons basically, they anchored about 400 to 500 feet above the city – dozens and dozens of them, to prevent the German bombers coming in and doing low level runs over the city. After she'd done the laundry, my mother used to tuck socks and roll them up and tuck them in to one another and I thought that those barrage balloons were socks! And that's a clear memory, that's not something I've been reminded of by either my mother or my dad.

SM: So you would have been about two or three?

EBK: Yes, probably.

SM: Do you remember fear then or did it mean nothing to you?

EBK: Well it didn't really mean anything to me until I got the hang of it a couple of years later when I realised what was going on.

SM: Where did your education start? Was that Gibraltar?

EBK: Basically yes. My mother tongue was French, that's what we spoke in the house, my mother being Greek born in Egypt. She spoke Greek and Arabic and French and Italian. My dad spoke English and French so the common language they had was the international language which in those days was French. So that's what they spoke around the house, and gradually I picked up some English but not a lot. Not enough so that when I first started school in Gibraltar, it took me a while to get in to English. I had problems in the beginning.

SM: That's interesting because normally children are like sponges. What went wrong with you??

EBK: I don't know because curiously enough, by the time we'd been in Gibraltar for about 6 months to a year, I could speak fluent Spanish! Go ahead, laugh me up!

SM: Well it is a bit odd!

EBK: Well yuh, but then nobody ever said that I was what might be classed as a normal human being.

SM: You obviously mastered the language eventually. Is it a silly question to ask, because I'm aware that you are multi lingual, but is English now your first language?

EBK: Well that's the language I think in.

SM: Which is the key really, isn't it. How many languages do you speak, by your standards, reasonably fluently?

EBK: English and French. I used to speak Spanish fluently but I have a smattering now. Greek, I have a smattering. That's it really. Oh, and some German.

SM: You never learned Arabic?

EBK: Only to say, "Ya lah" and "Iwa" and "Shwire" which is small or little or "Moya" which is water. And "Chai"; tea. Those are the words that I remember. There's not a lot of Arabic that's stuck over the years.

SM: It's just dawned on me actually a similarity between you and Joe McGonagle. You're both army brats.

EBK: I think being a military brat and travelling a lot tends to allow one to have a relatively open mind because you're always being subjected to new things.

SM: What happened after Gibraltar?

EBK: We went back to the UK for two or three years and from there we went back to Egypt and lived in the Canal Zone which is at the bottom of the Suez Canal where it spills out into the Great Bitter Lake. Unfortunately, the only other place that we could really go to was Ishmilia, just a little further up the Suez Canal. We were never able to get to Cairo or to Alexandria where my mother's home and place of birth, and mine too, were. We were never able to go visit.

SM: Was that for security reasons?

EBK: Probably, yes. There was always this sense of security around us as kids there because we lived in a village on the outskirts of Fayid that was surrounded by barbed wire fences with watch towers and patrolled 24 hours per day. We went to school; we travelled on converted three ton trucks that had lots of seats in and steps up the back of the thing, with an armed guard on the back, a soldier.

SM: About what sort of age must you have been?

EBK: About 11 or 12.

SM: So you would have been much more cognoscente of why and what was going on.

EBK: Oh yes. And from there we went to Cyprus when the Brits pulled out of Egypt. My dad was with General Headquarters Eastern; MELF – Middle Eastern Land Forces and when the Brits were booted out, when the Egyptians abrogated the treaty between the Brits and themselves, we were shipped to Cyprus where the General Headquarters was to arrive just in time for the EOKA terrorist wave. In fact my dad had an office at GHQ in Nicosia and he had gone out the evening before and bought himself a brand new typewriter. My dad was an amateur actor during his time in the army, always with the local drama group and he always also wrote for the local English newspaper.

So with his gains from writing for the local newspaper he bought this typewriter and he was duty officer the night of his buying this machine so he stuck it in a locker in his office and that night, EOKA terrorists hit General Headquarters Middle East land forces for the first time in Nicosia with a bomb which was planted right

outside my dad's office. It blew a huge hole in the wall and demolished the locker that his brand new type writer was in.

SM: And presumably he was not pleased.

EBK: No, he was not thrilled at all. And then we were eventually moved down to Famagusta on the coast and our house, because we weren't in married quarters, we were in a house rented by the army, right opposite the Pan Cyprian Gymnasium which was the High school and a hot bed of Elephtheria or Freedom. There were constantly riots going on there and we were always on the floor with wet towels around our mouths and noses to avoid the tear gas.

SM: That must have been frightening. I mean, you must have wondered what the hell was going on.

EBK: Oh I knew what was going on but it was the way of life in the army. Yes, there were riots, yes there was tear gas and bullets that on occasion whizzed around the house, but it was just a way of life. Maybe I was too stupid to appreciate the full extent of the danger!

SM: When did you leave Cyprus?

EBK: We left Cyprus in 1956. The three year tour of the Middle East was up for my dad and he then had just two or three years more to go before he'd completed his commitment to the British army. From Cyprus we ended up in Scotland, in Scone, just outside Perth, where the castle of Robert the Bruce was.

SM: This was also a military posting?

EBK: Yes. My dad, for the last few years in the army was stationed with the Black Watch in Scotland. He was actually Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Because he'd had a lot of active duty, his reward for being a good guy was a cushy posting to Scotland as the Quartermaster of the Black Watch. It was a Territorial unit too so he was just basically a regular weekend soldier.

SM: Was there any temptation on your part to join the army as well?

EBK: You must be joking. Yes! I had been to so many schools during the course of my childhood that I was always the new kid and the only way to survive that was to be the class clown. So that I was, and because we were constantly changing schools and moving, my education went downhill. My education was incomplete when I was streamed out of school at age 15 in Scotland so then I had a choice. I had been brought up under military discipline, my dad was a sergeant major, and was very strict so when the time came and I was being dumped out of the school system, I had a choice. I either had to go find work or join the army or leave home. So being used to spit and polish and stamping and saluting, because that was basically what I did all of my life up until I was 15, I opted for the Army Apprentice's School and was in Harrogate, Yorkshire.

I spent three years there learning how to march and stamp and salute even better, and was an apprentice with the Royal Signals. I became a telegraph operator where I learned Morse code, how to type, use teletype machines, switchboards, wireless and radios, micro wave, it was just endless what I learned. Hence I can touch type now. When I graduated there, I was shipped out to Germany with the Royal Signals and spent some time in Iserlohn with the 205 Signal Squadron. Spent a while with the Vandoos because I was a wireless operator. We really had problems, within our brigade with the Canadian brigade, understanding their wireless operators.

SM: Did you say the Vandoos?

EBK: Yes, a French Canadian regiment who were part of the 5th Infantry Brigade. I was there liaising back via the wireless communication system back to the British headquarters and while I was there, I had the chance to apply to the local Canadian Army radio station. They were looking for people to work on air.

SM: OK. This sounds like you're about to start to describe your first job in radio.

EBK: Actually my second. My first job was in Egypt. I'd mentioned that my dad was always in the local drama group and one of the members of the drama group in Fayed in Egypt was the manager of the British Forces Broadcasting Radio station there. The manager asked my dad whether I'd be interested in hosting a kid's request show for an hour on a Saturday morning. I of course said no. But I ended up doing that for I think about a year.

SM: How old were you then?

EBK: What would I have been? Eleven?

SM: So they put an eleven year old, into a studio, without any.....?

EBK: There was a local announcer, a military guy who worked the radio station and he and I hosted.

SM: Did you really say no at first?

EBK: No.

SM: You jumped at it?

EBK: It was a perfect opportunity for me and I did that for about a year before we left for Cyprus, which was a bummer because I liked being on the radio. Being looked up to and being handed requests at school – I was a somebody.

SM: But it does go a bit deeper than that. I don't know if this was something that you were born with or something you developed but you do have what I would call a classic radio voice.

EBK: Yes, but I think that's an acquired thing. I'm in front of a microphone and that's the way I speak. And people have said to me many times, "Is that you on the radio? It doesn't sound like you." It's an affectation.

SM: No it's not Errol because I wouldn't say that. We're talking privately now and

EBK: We have never sat down face to face and talked.

SM: Well that's true but what are you saying? That face to face contact distracts the human brain from the voice?

EBK: No, I think what I'm saying is that there is this sub conscious circuit that kicks in every time I get on the phone or a microphone.

SM: Ah, so you're saying that if we weren't speaking on the phone now.....

EBK: I'd be speaking like this and sounding very strange (and indeed he does!). I'm a chameleon voice wise. When I'm around people that talk funny, I talk funny. When I'm down south in the United States and they talk like this, I slide into it within about a half an hour.

SM: Does this result in any teasing from companions?

EBK: No.

SM: You've got away with that, have you?

EBK: No, I punch them out! I don't stand for no funning up.

SM: Right so, second job, you applied for.....?

EBK: I applied for permission to work for the Canadian Army Radio station and amazingly, it was granted, and so I spent, I guess, I spent about a year working for them before I became quite ill. I'd had flu like symptoms in my last year at Harrogate periodically and it was a recurring thing every couple of months. They couldn't figure out what was wrong although they knew I didn't have the flu.



Errol in Germany in 1961

So after I'd been in Germany for about a year I got quite, quite ill off the end of one of these flu like symptom things and they whipped me into hospital and decided to do a biopsy on me. They weren't sure about the results so they decided to casualty evacuate me back to the military hospital in London where they couldn't figure out what was wrong with me too. They thought it might be Hodgkin's. So I went on a treatment regime and was discharged from hospital and was sent to basically a rest and recreation at the Royal Signal Squadron at Hounslow outside London, Headquarters Eastern Command. There were about 170 women's army corps and about 9 or 10 guys.

SM: That must have been difficult.

EBK: Oh it was. It was probably the most difficult job I've ever had.

SM: Did the treatment work?

EBK: Yeah, it seemed to have done.

SM: So you were undiagnosed basically but they were right? They were pretty amazed the symptoms went away? And it's never come back?

EBK: It's never come back, no. I'm apparently one of the few people that's ever recovered from Hodgkin's disease, which is cancer of the lymph nodes. Isn't that miraculous?

SM: It is. Without chemotherapy or anything like that?

EBK: They gave me chemo and several other drugs.

SM: How old were you then?

EBK: I was twenty. It was during my time at Hounslow that I watched the first episodes of *Coronation Street*. I still watch it today. I'm quite looking forward to the next episode to see whether Katie is dead or not. I know you don't watch it.

SM: I don't anymore but I was a big fan probably about 20 years ago, to the point where on the programmes 25th anniversary, Granada television staged an all nighter of old episodes at a local cinema, and I went to that. I stayed up all night, sitting in an old cinema, watching old episodes of *Coronation Street*.

EBK: Oh that's funny. Well I've pretty much watched it straight through since its beginning.

SM: Well that was what, 1963? So things were also beginning to happen in London at that time as well.

EBK: My dad had just gotten into the Tower Of London as a Beefeater. He was the first Canadian ever to be a Beefeater in the Tower of London. That had been his life's ambition. British kids of his generation all wanted to be Mounties. Dad wanted to be a Beefeater and he had put in his time in the British army and had attained a suitable rank and had a long service of good conduct. Twenty two years of undetected crime, so he applied to be a Beefeater, a Yeoman Warder of the Tower of London, and got accepted.

SM: Red uniform and all?

EBK: Oh yeah, scarlet splendour. With a partisan or a pike, a funny hat with the red white and blue fleurs around it, that's the dress uniform, and the blues that they wear when they're on duty at the Tower. The undress blues.

SM: What were you doing?

EBK: Then? I think that when my medical status had been upgraded to P7 or P8, they decided I had to go back to active duty so they sent me to Libya. Ben ghastly – Benghazi, with the signal squadron there.

SM: And how long had you been away from active duty?

EBK: It was while I was in Libya and my 21st. birthday that we spent touring the Middle East. We started up a band in Libya - a rock 'n roll band. We would start work at 7:00 am and work until noon because it was too damned hot, especially in the summer time. So from noon on, if you weren't on duty in the signal centre, which is what I did, then you had time off but there was really nothing to do except go to the beach or go to the NAAFI. We had a lot of spare space in our barracks area and I went to the old man and asked if it would be possible to start a club for

the guys here; a social club. He said, "What a splendid idea" so I did, and stocked the bar with all kinds of good things which we had permission to buy and made a load of money for the social club. I eventually discovered there were several musicians in the squad that I was with and we decided to start a band.

SM: And what instrument did you play?

EBK: Drums. I wasn't very good but I could maintain a beat.

SM: You had a kit?

EBK: The funds from the social club bought us the equipment we used, guitars and amps and drums.

SM: So you learned then?

EBK: No. When I was in the Army Apprentice's School, I discovered there were two skives that worked really well. One was the drama group and the other one, in the beginning, were the drums and fifes. The drum and bugle corps. So as I had played a recorder at school I went along and auditioned for the drums and fifes and got accepted.

SM: On the basis of having played recorder at school?

EBK: Right, so I had a fife, which is like a small flute to play and couldn't read music but had a good ear and the first couple of parades I did with the drums and fifes, I just whistled over the top of the fife because I hadn't got the hang of it yet. As time went by, it became a brass band and then a pipe band and I became a tenor drummer then for a while I was a snare drummer and then I carried the big drum and at graduation, I was the drum major.

SM: Had you learned to read music in the meantime?

EBK: No, and I still can't read music. But after the fife, I didn't need to because it was just rhythm.

SM: Which you learned or improvised.



Errol at Harrogate training camp in 1959 working on his rhythm

EBK: I actually have not a bad sense of rhythm and apparently I'm a damn good dancer, so I'm constantly told. So I have a good sense of rhythm and being a disc jockey and mixing music and those things that I did in later years; that sense of rhythm and feel for music has stood me in good stead.

SM: When you started talking about the band, it sounded like you started to get gigs.

EBK: Yes, we did. We had a lot of gigs; we played a lot of the local night clubs.

SM: So you broke out of the army circuit?

EBK: Oh yes. We started our club and then other units in our barracks saw that we had a club, and it was exclusively really for our guys, so they started clubs too and the various marrieds would have Saturday night evening socials.

SM: Were you married then?

EBK: No. Yes, I was, I lied. I got married while I was in Hounslow. I married my dad's colonel's daughter, someone that I'd grown up with.

SM: You went straight to the top.

EBK: Oh, yeah. There was no mucking about. I first met her in Egypt when I was in hospital. I was 19; she was 18 when we married.

SM: The marriage didn't last, did it? How long did it last for?

EBK: It lasted until midway through my Radio Caroline pirate radio days. Probably mid 60s, three years. So in Libya on my 21st birthday, we were actually touring with Ruby Murray and during the course of that tour was my birthday. She and I had spent some time sitting down talking and having a couple of drinks, and she said, "What are you doing in the army?" And I said, "It's a good question".

So I thought about it for a couple of days and with the work that I was doing in the signals centre there, I was working with ciphers and my security clearance was such that I couldn't buy myself out of the army. I had signed up at the age of 15 for three years as an apprentice, nine years with the regular army, and three years with the reserve.

SM: Consecutively?

EBK: That was the contract.

SM: So what's that, 15 years?

EBK: Yes, so I would have been thirty by the time my commitment was finished and really, the only way that I could get out of the army when I decided that it was ridiculous being there for me was that I had to work my ticket. So we were booked in the officer's mess New Years Eve dance for the Kings Hussars who had led the charge of the Light Brigade and in the midst of those celebrations, I kicked my drum kit all over the place and went berserk. Prior to that, because we were working so much with the band, I had gone to see the MD there on the base and had told him I was having problems staying awake so he gave me a prescription for speed....

SM: Which you got legally?

EBK: Yes.

SM: How thoughtful of the army.

EBK: Yes. And then I went back a few weeks later and complained that I was just too wired so he also gave me a description for downers.

SM: To be taken at the same time?

EBK: At the same time. You have to remember that this was early to mid 60s, 1963, when there wasn't a lot of understanding of the effects of these things. Plus, when we played gigs, all the booze was free. Coca Cola was more expensive than the rum that went with it. So I was popping these pills, knowing what I was doing, and drinking a lot. So it came as no surprise to the establishment when I had a nervous breakdown on New Years Eve in the officer's mess in 1963 and kicked my drum kit all over the place and ended up in a darkened room in the military hospital there.

SM: How long for?

EBK: I was there for a week and a half assessment, insisting that I didn't want out of the army and then they decided they would have to fly me to Larnaca to the British Military Hospital in Cyprus for further assessment.

So they did that, I was there for about a week and then they decided to fly me home to the UK to Netley in Hampshire. So I ended up there, still insisting that I didn't want out of the army but in fact that's what I was doing, was working my ticket out of the army.

SM: So this was a cynical sort of means of getting out or were you still suffering from the affects of your breakdown.

EBK: There wasn't really a breakdown. It was a planned thing on my part where I had to work my ticket. That way there were two choices; you were just a bastard and they put you in a British military prison for three years and then threw you out as an unsavoury person or you worked a medical ticket. So I worked the psychiatric ticket.

SM: But you were taking that medication which would have had.....

EBK: Yes but I had knowingly gone into this plan of action. Oh God, this is going to look wonderful in UFO Review! It's the way it is.

SM: So the standing up and kicking the drum kit all over the place was a deliberate act?

EBK: Oh yes, it was all part of the plan.

SM: Do you think this is where Keith Moon got the idea from? Do you think you started the whole Who thing?

EBK: No. No, no, although I did know Mooney quite well. But I can't take credit for it. But it sure did work because I ended up in fact in the UK in the late summer of '63 and the sister on the ward that I was in was a sergeant male nurse and I arrived there and immediately I was to go on sick leave.

My then wife came down, met me, and signed for me and took me home to the Tower of London! I was told that I had to think about whether I wanted to continue my career in the army or not. Because here I was doing cipher work and I had a "nervous Breakdown". So I spent a week with Anne and went back and the ward sister, this Royal Army medical corps male sergeant asked me if I'd thought about what I was going to do? I told him that my wife and I had talked it over and that maybe I should just stop doing the army thing. So he passed that on and I went to see a psychiatrist who asked me if I was really sure I wanted out and I replied that it seemed to be the best course as I wasn't going to be trusted back in to the signal centre again, and that's what I really liked doing. So he said, "Alright, well leave it with me" and that night's orders appeared on the ward notice board and there was my name to appear in front of the board the next morning. Which I did. I marched in and saluted, they asked me for my name, rank and number and I gave it to them. There were four or five officers and I was asked if I understood why this board had been convened and I said, "Yes". The chairman turned to the others and said, "Any questions?" They said, "No" and he said, "Congratulations Mr. Knapp. Boarded."

SM: He said "congratulations?"

EBK: Yes. And that afternoon I was on a train headed back to London in my civilian clothes. And then spent several months having nightmares about the MPs showing up at the door, banging on the door and telling me it was all a mistake and I had to go back and finish out my time.

SM: And when you got to London, how did you entertain yourself?

EBK: I immediately got myself a job with the Automobile Association in Leicester Square in Fanum House, working on the breakdown system there and in the wireless room which they had established for VIPs on the Rainbow Network. Before the days of the IRA and security flaps, various special people had two way radios in their vehicles and whenever they had a break down, it would come up on the Rainbow Network.

SM: A bygone day, that.

EBK: Well most of it is. I'm 63! So then while I was doing that, I was living out in Hadleigh Wood near Potters Bar north of London with my wife and my son and lo and behold suddenly there appeared a pirate radio station named Caroline. This was Easter of '64. Listening to them, I heard Simon Dee who was on air at the time saying they needed disc jockeys for the radio station and if anybody wanted to be a disc jockey then please send your addition tapes to 6, Chesterfield Gardens in London, which wasn't very far from Leicester Square.

That was a Sunday and I immediately pulled out my reel to reel machine. I think I had one of the first real reel to reel machines that were available publicly. I'd had one from the days in Egypt and was pretty good with it and I threw together a demo tape and that night I was on overnights in Leicester Square. When I finished my shifts in the morning, I think I finished at 8:00 o'clock and went over to Chesterfield Gardens, and sat on the doorstep waiting for somebody to show up.

The somebody that showed up was Allan Crawford who was Ronan O'Rahilly's partner in Radio Caroline. Allan had originally started Radio Atlantis which was the first pirate radio station off the coast of England and they had merged the two companies. Caroline North was about to sail around the west coast and anchor off the Isle of Man at that point. So when Allan Crawford showed up and there I am sitting somewhat disconsolately on the doorstep, he looked at me and said, "Good

day. What are you doing here?" He had a strong Australian accent. So I said, "Well I brought my demo for someone to listen to." "Oh great! C'mon in".

He unlocked the door, took me up to his office and we had a bit of a natter and then he said, "Alright. Let's listen to your tape." We're listening and the phone rings and it's the shipping office in Harwich saying that Brian Vaughn/Dermot Hoy, who was the only operator on the ship, had just been taken off with appendicitis and they needed someone to take his place on the ship. So Crawford, listening to this on the phone, covers the mouth piece and he says, "Do you know how to operate a Gates board?" I said "Of course!"

SM: Did you?

EBK: I kind of did ask myself what the hell a Gates board was. But it's an audio board and an audio board is an audio board. They all function in basically the same way, y' know. They've got faders and cue-circuits. So that evening I was out on Radio Caroline.

SM: And what was your wife's reaction?

EBK: On the one hand she was pleased but on the other hand I was away for two weeks out of three.

Editor's note; Back in the 60s, radio in the UK was fit to go to sleep to. Totally dominated by the BBC and very out of touch with what young people wanted. An Irishman discovered a loophole in UK maritime law which allowed him to position a boat just outside territorial waters and broadcast quite legally to the UK, much to the immense chagrin of the authorities who did their best to make life as awkward for the pirates as possible. Basing their formats on American Top 40 play lists, they totally took the airwaves by storm and set the pattern of radio in the UK for some years to come. Coupled with the err "swinging" time we were all having in London back then, pirate radio was just one of the components that helped make Great Britain an extremely exciting place to be in.

SM: So you made the trip out to the boat?

EBK: To the radio station, to Caroline, the Mi Amigo as it was then.

SM: What were your first impressions when you stepped on board?

EBK: Wow. Here I am on the ship that has the radio station on it that I was listening to yesterday. We were on air for fourteen hours a day in those days and for the first few days, that's what I did, fourteen hours a day. Because I was the only one who knew how to cue up records, hit the cart machine for the Caroline Bell and roll the tape with the commercial spots on it.

SM: There were no other presenters on board with you?

EBK: Oh yeah there were presenters but they were guys who didn't drive the board. They didn't know how.

SM: So effectively you were an engineer?

EBK: Yeah, I was an op for my first week there and then a slot came up because somebody didn't make it back to the ship or was sick and so I did that shift. And there I was; 21 years old and working on Radio Caroline.

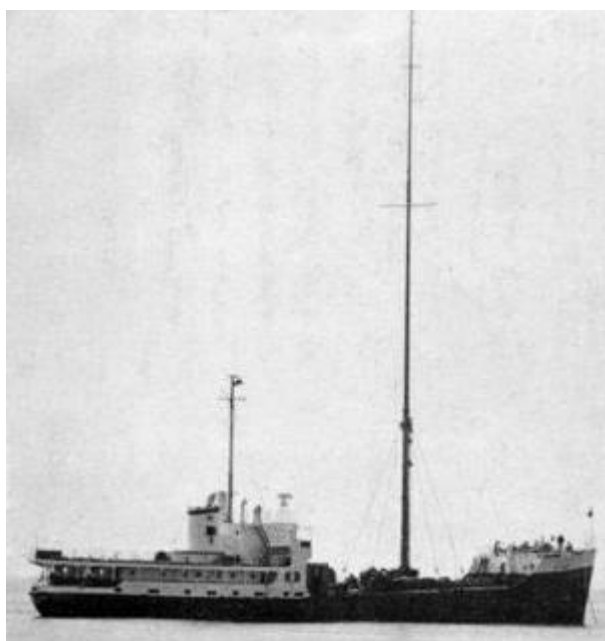
SM: Who picked the records?

EBK: We did.

SM: The DJ's picked them. There was no play list?

EBK: In the beginning we'd get bag fulls of records and we had a library down in the stateroom down below that had been converted into a library with a turntable and speakers. Stuff would come in and we would listen to it and then decide what we were going to play and what we weren't.

SM: Who were you working with at that time?



Radio England, one of the pirate ships on which Errol worked

EBK: Tony Blackburn, Simon Dee, Doug Kerr, Brian Vaughn, Keith Skues.

SM: Some big names in there.

EBK: Well yuh. I'm just a regular person, ya know, as Lennon said to me several times. "I happen to have been in the band that got big".

SM: Well you've name dropped a couple of times. Does that mean that when you came off the ship, you ended up mixing in music circles?

EBK: Oh yes, of course, absolutely. The first couple of times I came off, I went home and basically stayed home for the week but they kept asking me to go out and do gigs on my week off, which I did. And then after the gigs, we would go to the Cromwellian Club or The Roaring Twenties or Scotch of St. James, and it didn't take long to get to meet people at those clubs because that's where everybody hung out. I've got some great rock 'n roll stories to tell!

SM: Tell us one or two!

EBK: Where would you like me to start?

SM: Well you've mentioned Lennon and you said you knew Keith Moon quite well.

EBK: Well they were people I just ran into, you know. When I was in Germany, one of the places we would go to was Hamburg. And there was a great place there where British bands played called *The Star Club* and that's where I met the Fab Four, before they were fab.

SM: So you saw them perform there?

EBK: Oh yeah. In the early days, yeah. I was always in to rock 'n roll. When I was in the army apprentices school and I would go visit my folks who were living in Hornchurch in Essex, I would go up to Soho all the time and hang out at.....oh where it all started in the basement, I can't even remember the name of the place. Right across the street from Act 1 Scene 1... The 2-I's.

SM: It wasn't that coffee place?

EBK: Yeah, the coffee house.

SM: Not where Tommy Steele started.

EBK: Yeah, that place. I was hanging around there when I was 15 or 16. The first time I smoked dope was there.

SM: At the age of 15?



Errol behind the desk on Radio England

EBK: In 1960 whatever it was. Yes. And I bought a house-brick of hash and I think it was £25. It lasted me for years.

SM: I expect it would, that size.

EBK: It was a house-brick!

SM: Prices have changed a bit since. How far have you gone with drugs?

EBK: Well I ended up dropping acid a few times, looking for God and then eventually realising that I'd found God, and so what? We had some great times in

Pompey, in Portsmouth. Ricky Farr who was Tommy Farr the boxer's son – the only guy who had knocked down Max Schmelling the British heavyweight boxing champion, and Ricky was in the business. He had worked with Georgio Gomelsky at the Marquee club. Georgio was basically the man who discovered the Rolling Stones and the Yardbirds and Eric Clapton. When the three guys in Cream decided to get together and we're all sitting in the Cromwellian club in London kicking around names for these guys and Georgio, who was a big white Russian said, "Well you guys are the cream of rock and roll. That's the name for you; Cream."

SM: Geez Errol, you've been at the root of it, at the base of it so to speak on some fairly auspicious occasions.

EBK: It's really amazing. I've led several lifetimes in this one lifetime. I've had several interesting things go on around me. Now I'm doing UFOs.

SM: How well did you get to know Lennon?

EBK: Well enough to run the Peace Station network for him here in Toronto when they were trying to put on the Toronto Peace Festival in 1970. John and Yoko had been given two full pages to do with whatever they wanted in *Cashbox* and *Billboard* magazines when they were doing "Give Peace a Chance" and they decided that what they had to do was put together a radio network to spread messages of peace. So there was a lot of jumping up and down by many radio stations and it was decided that I should be the guy who coordinated all of that, in conjunction with the Toronto Peace Festival. So that's what I did for about 6 months until the whole damn thing fell apart.

SM: Just coming back to your early Caroline days, you were a listener and then became a presenter.....

EBK: I was a listener for about two or three weeks or whatever it was and then boom; there I was, working.

SM: So were you aware of the impact that the whole culture of pirate radio was having?

EBK: Oh yes. We used to get pre-release copies of the records, very seldom were they soft cuts, acetates, but often they were 45s but with a promotional label on it with "A Side" stamped really brightly on it so you wouldn't make a mistake and play the "B" side. Well a couple of times we played the "B" sides instead of the "A" sides because we liked the "B" sides better.

SM: You didn't break the Four Pennies did you? "Juliet"?

EBK: No, but I think I was the first disc jockey in the world to play *House of the Rising Sun* though, by the Animals.

SM: That wasn't a "B" side was it?

EBK: No.

SM: But you picked up on it very quickly?

EBK: We would go into Caroline House just before we headed off back to the ship and we'd pick up a bunch of stuff and on that trip out I think I had, among many other records, *House of the Rising Sun* by the Animals and I love the Animals. We used to go and see them all the time at Rick Gunnell's club, The Flamingo. Rick

Gunnell was managing Georgie Fame at the time. But anyway, I knew all these guys so I was real happy to take it out there and be the first guy anywhere in the world and play *The House of the Rising Sun*.

SM: Any other records that you can recall breaking that nobody else bothered with?

EBK: No. That sort of thinking was really inconsequential as far as I was concerned. I was real happy to be out there doing what I was doing and playing the music that I loved and having a lot of people like it.

SM: As a celebrity in the.....

EBK: No, I wasn't a celebrity. If I was a celebrity, you would have heard of me back in those days. Errol Bruce who?

SM: Well, I'm not sure at what point I started listening to pirate radio to be honest. The point I was going to get at though was that I would imagine that there were quite a number of young ladies who were quite happy to throw themselves in your direction?

EBK: Perpetually, and I'm a Scorpio you know? I'm not about to hold up a crucifix and say, "Get away from me".

SM: So you were having the time of your life.

EBK: Oh it was just amazing, it just was amazing. And at that age being gonad driven, it was just ughh. One day I shall write a book and name names.

SM: Would you care to drop one or two now?

EBK: No. because they're all still alive.

SM: Are we talking about women here?

EBK: Yes.

SM: Anybody well known?

EBK: Yes.

SM: Oh give us a clue.

EBK: No, I can't. I'm sorry.

SM: English?

EBK: Oh alright... No, no I can't. No. That's not nice.

SM: Artist?

EBK: Actors, singers.

SM: C'mon Errol, you can't do this to me.

EBK: Of course I can. I'm a big person, I'm allowed.

SM: Yes, but what happens if you pass from this mortal coil before they do?

EBK: Then the secrets will die with me. No, I'm not a kiss and tell kind of guy basically. It would only be ego gratification and my ego was greatly gratified at the time. I don't need anymore of it.

SM: How long were you with Caroline?

EBK: I was with Caroline for two years and then a bit of year with Radio England. Then I did some Caroline North and I left the country in July '68.

SM: Were you still married then?

EBK: No. And Ricky Farr and I, to go back to that story, had opened a club in Portsmouth, Brave New World. It used to be called the Bird Cage and we renovated the place; it was a magnificent club for all the Modies to put their suits on and bring their darlings with them on the back of their scooters. We ran that place for about six months and then I wanted to get back into radio but there was no way I was going to go to the Beeb, where I had to submit everything in triplicate and they got to choose the music for me. So I decided to come to Canada.

SM: You couldn't have stomached that, could you?

EBK: No. It was always the music for me. It wasn't the glory or the celebrity, as you called it. That wasn't what was important; it was just turning people on to the music. And when the music was basically drek, why bother?

SM: What made you pick Canada?

EBK: I was a Canadian citizen by virtue of my birth; my dad is a Canadian citizen. It was a land of opportunity for me. There was commercial radio here and I didn't realise quite how backward it was until I actually got here. Oh my gawd. I arrived with albums by Arthur Brown, Brian Auger and Julie Driscoll and the Small Faces. They'd never heard of those people here when I got here. And I immediately tried to get a job with CHUM FM here in Toronto and I talked funny to them, I talked too funny and they were a progressive radio station at that time. Stoned on radio, you know. The guys would wonder in tripped out or stoned out of their minds or not, and play the music they wanted to play. And it was the kind of music with very few commercials, not a lot of talk, FM stereo, and was really unique. This was '68.

SM: That would be very unique back then.

EBK: Oh yeah. It was a classical music station and Allan Waters, bless his cotton socks, who has just died, had founded 1050 Chum, the Top 40 rocker, and that and CKLW in Windsor were the biggest rockers in North America. Allan Waters was always a visionary till the day he died last week here, grew his empire from one little AM radio station to 30 or 40 radio stations and a huge number of TV stations and speciality channels on satellite here. In his precognitive state, he decided it would be a good idea to have a progressive rock station here in the city, which he did, and when I arrived, that had been on for about three or four months I think. I really desperately wanted to work there. But as I said, they decided that I had a strange accent and it probably wouldn't be acceptable.

SM: What was your accent then? Was it English?

EBK: Yeah, more or less. It was sort of mid-Atlantic.

SM: Well mid Atlantic was always a very positive attribute on British radio.

EBK: Oh of course, but not over here because it was a little too much English. So I bugged the hell out of a guy who was a salesman for an AM station, CKFH; Foster Hewitt was the first hockey commentator here in Canada. In fact he set the rules for the genre and out of his earnings and doing hockey commentary he bought an AM radio licence here. I forget what the wattage was on it but it wasn't that powerful. One of the salesmen at the station had bought the all night slot there and hired a guy to come in and play music and it was rhythm and blues and I really knew my R&B. That slot came open and Keith Hampshire who was a disc jockey on Caroline was here and he and I had connected as soon as I arrived. He was working at CKFH doing the afternoon drive. It was known as number two radio here in Toronto behind CHUM AM and really had a substantial audience. There was a little more flexibility than the format of CHUM. Anyway he got me in to talk to the man who owned that all night slot and it took several weeks of my harassing him before he would give me the job, because he thought I spoke with a funny accent too.

SM: It's funny because south of the border in the States at that time

EBK: Let me tell you of my experiences south of the border! So anyway, I ended up doing the all night show on CKFH playing rhythm and blues and having the brothers phone me saying, "Hey, how come you know so much about our music?" because I was playing it back in the UK! We were playing Motown and Stax and Volt on Caroline; Otis Redding, Rufus Thomas. I spent time with the Stax/Volt guys when they were on the road in the UK, so I knew all these people too.

SM: Arthur Connelly?

EBK: "Sweet Soul Music" man. I don't remember whether I met him. But all of the Bar Kays, Otis, Carla Thomas, Wilson Pickett, Sam and Dave. Anyway, there I was and during the course of that, met and fell in love with a gorgeous, gorgeous fashion model here in Toronto – the first time I'd really fallen in love. That lasted a while.

SM: You didn't marry?

EBK: No. She went off on the last Benson and Hedges commercial and photography shoot, down to Acapulco and then she came back and had gotten herself involved with the photographer and told me she didn't want to see me anymore, and then just disappeared. It was just all out of the blue. I was devastated and then I was even more devastated when I started seeing the picture of the silver sand and a grey horse and her, on the backs of buses, on billboards, in magazines, and I'm going nuts trying to find her. So I had to get out of town.

There was a guy doing the show called The Open Lid on CKFH which was all free form on AM. He was progressive rock because it was so big on Chum but on AM and I was R&B, blues, white boy blues, and expanding the format as nobody really objected. I ended up auditioning while on the radio down the phone line to Tucson, Arizona to a guy who was Barry Goldwater's best friend who had a Mexican AM station and was looking to put in a sister station for that AM that would be an FM progressive rocker.

So in the midst of all this turmoil I'm going through, I do this audition, get hired on the phone, 'cos he's listening to me doing my show here, and Gene Theyer, who had turned me on to the guy and did this Open Lid progressive show, he and his wife and I and their two cats picked up a U-Haul trailer, packed all of our stuff in, stuck it on the back of a little notch-back VW and drove to Tucson, Arizona. Left town. And actually the first time I heard *Get back* was driving into Tucson at dawn and the DJ on air saying, "Here's the latest one by the Beatles" and then "Jo-Jo left

his home in Tucson Arizona". So I arrived in Tucson the day that Jo-Jo left. And I had a wonderful time in Tucson talking like this (speaking in English accent) and making it really broad because they'd all seen "them" on TV and maybe heard them on the radio but never actually came across "one".

And in fact that saved our asses one night during the drive to Tucson. It was the time of the fall back, the time change, and we were in Texas and we just really needed a beer because we'd been driving for days. We had Travel Lodges on the way down but we were trying to go all the way through to Tucson in one long run.

But we needed a beer and as we came up over this hilltop, down below us on the left is a saloon out in the middle of nowhere, brightly lit, hitching rails on one side with horses and the other side a parking lot filled with pick up trucks with guns in racks at the back of the cabs. And warm, although it was midnight or 1:00 o'clock and I had long hair down below my shoulders. Billy-Gene looked like Kit Carson, blond hair, big blond droopy moustache, curly, curly hair and a cowboy hat on. And Mary Ellen was his gorgeous Hawaiian wife so anyway, I said to him, "You really wanna go in there? This is red-neck country." Back in them days, long-hairs didn't have no place in red-neck country.

So we walked through the classic western saloon flaps and there's a classic western scene; the guy playing the piano and guys shooting pool and lots of people sitting around drinking. And as we walk in the door, the place goes totally quiet and we're all being stared at. I thought, "Oh God." And then I said in a cockney accent, "Ere, what does anybody have to do to get a fucking drink around here." And they all went, "Ehhhhhhh a limey!!! Saved our asses that night I think.

SM: Any interest in Ufology at this point?

EBK: When I was in Libya, I was out on a patrol in the desert and woke up in my little one man tent. This is made of thick army khaki canvas and yet there's this bright light that's shining outside of the tent wall. And I'm thinking, "What the hell's that? Are the guys turning around the truck around and pointing the headlights at the side of the tent and screwing around?" So I'm going to go out there and give them a shout. So I crawl out of my sleeping bag, out of the tent, and I see this sort of amber/orange light that's at about my height, hard to tell how far away it is from me and I'm trying to shield my eyes to see what's making the light. I start to walk towards it and it backs away from me and goes up the side of this dune and down the other side. I follow, still trying to see what it is and what the source of it is. As I get down to the bottom of the dune, I put my left foot down on the level sand and the next moment, I'm on top of my sleeping bag covered in sand and its morning.

SM: I see.

EBK: That totally freaked me out for about a week or so and then after that, I forgot about it.

SM: You forgot about it?

EBK: Yeah. It drifted away. I had no idea what had happened. I couldn't rationalise what had happened, couldn't talk to anybody about it so it just drifted away out of my awareness.

SM: So what year was that?

EBK: That was in Libya and that would have been 1963-ish.

SM: What year was Betty and Barney?

EBK: Wasn't it '62?

SM: Can't remember the exact year at the mo.

EBK: That didn't come back to me until '92/'93 when I got into this on a fairly serious basis.

SM: So you mean that for close to 30 years you'd suppressed it?

EBK: Yeah. Well suppressed it or forgotten about it. I guess suppressed it is the right word.

SM: Well from the way you've described it, I would reckon you suppressed it.

EBK: Yeah. Well particularly when I was interested in flying saucers when I was a kid, because when we were in Gibraltar, I heard the original 1947 broadcast of the United States army air force discovering a flying disc and I said to my dad, "What's that?" By the time I was five, I was reading. My dad was an avaricious reader; he still is, if he can hold a book. He used to read five or six books a week. So we were always in the library and tried to find books on flying discs. There was nothing but there were interesting things on ghosts, goblins and fairies which I got into.

SM: You've never been written up as a case, have you?

EBK: No. I've told MUFON investigators here about that incident but no, I haven't. Bit of a head case but not *a* case.

SM: Well it's a significant event.

EBK: Well so it would seem. It would certainly explain my saying that the work that I am doing now is my assignment whether I choose to accept it or not. There have been a couple of incidents.

SM: There have?

EBK: Driving my cousin from my folks place about an hour and a half away from Toronto to the airport and he was headed back to Australia. We were driving down one of the smaller highways and I'm nattering away and I had a convertible Volkswagen Rabbit with the top up, a grey day, coolish. I'm nattering away at him and realise he's no longer paying attention to what I'm saying but he's leant forward in his seat looking up under the top of the windshield. So I lean forward to look at what he's looking at and there below the clouds is a grey disc, moving at the same speed as we are.

We both look at this for a while and he says to me, "What do you suppose that is?" I said, "Well you're the nuclear physicist. You tell me." And he said, "I'm fucked if I know." His family had emigrated to Australia when he was younger (I'd worked that out as Errol had been speaking in an Aussie accent-Ed). My uncle was the tallest pilot in the Royal Air force at 6' 7". All of the Knapps were real tall people. I'm 6'3" and I have nephews that are 6' 11" and 7 foot. We're all giants among men.

So this thing paced us all the way down to the 401 which is a major eight lane east/west highway between Toronto and Montreal. We swung a right and headed for Toronto and this thing just kept pace with us. It's a good 25 minute drive from that junction to the outskirts of Toronto, and it stayed with us.

Just on the outskirts of Toronto there are some hydro electrical towers, a transmission station and this thing, as we got closer to this transmission station, suddenly sped up to an incredible speed, got immediately over the transmission station and, not even a curve or a bank, it just went from flying horizontally to an instant "up" direction. And up through the clouds and it was gone. At an incredible rate of knots. But there must have been other people who saw that, not just the two of us, but I never heard anything about it.

SM: Well if you paced it for half an hour, there must have been people behind you, there must have been people coming towards you....

EBK: Well of course. You would think so. But how many people were looking up at the sky when they were driving? Especially on a crappy day with grey skies and low-ish cloud.

SM: You said there were a couple of other incidents.

EBK: Yes. I woke up one night in a ground level apartment. The woman I was living with was away on a course somewhere and I woke up lying on my right side facing the inside wall and there was this orange light filling the room. There were silhouettes on the wall, not tall silhouettes, the classic little grey silhouettes - there were three of them and I'm trying to turn over from laying on my right side with my back to them, and I can't. Struggling to turn over and finally I manage it and its daylight.

SM: Oh that's sleep paralysis Errol.

EBK: Yeah of course it is. It's like the Venus we saw pacing our car on the way to Pearson International airport.

SM: That was sleep paralysis as well; the two of you.

EBK: No, it was Venus.

SM: Oh alright then. Weird.

EBK: It was funny because I had done some meditation classes right at the time I was working with the Toronto Peace Festival, with Karma productions and I was the co-ordinator for the Peace Station Network, and I was sitting with my eyes closed meditating and I became aware of what I called the Watchers, with the same shaped heads looking at me through... it was almost like that character with his fingers and nose over a wall with a question mark over his head. It was faces like that almost peering over a wall of cloud at me, standing all around me. This was conscious and I was seeing these images.

SM: Well you were conscious but you were meditating. How deep did you get into it?

EBK: I didn't because I freaked. All of these incidents didn't fall into place until I got involved with MUFON Ontario and then all this stuff came back to me. These were strange incidents; it wasn't top of my mind with me but on reflection, it's really strange not to flip out but to just accept it and to just go on with life and basically push it to one side.

SM: How long were you in Tucson?

EBK: I got down there in October and came back in the middle of January to run the Peace Network for John and Yoko. So I was down there just a few months. I dropped acid down there and climbed into some sort of imitation pine tree, the only one in Tucson, and felt at home.



Errol at the time he was involved in the Toronto Peace Network

SM: In the tree?

EBK: And ended up crying all night and got Vessie out of my system – that was the model, who was just gorgeous. Six feet tall, cheek bones way up, tall, leggy, drop dead gorgeous and a Hungarian baroness's daughter. A classic beauty.

SM: You've obviously had a number of relationships during the course of your life. Have you ever met your first wife again?

EBK: No. She lives somewhere outside Birmingham I think now. We've exchanged letters a couple of times over the years, but no.

SM: You had a son with her?

EBK: Yes.

SM: Right so there would have been a reason to keep some sort of contact?

EBK: Yes.

SM: Did you ever meet this model again?

EBK: Yes.

SM: That's a very guarded response.

EBK: Yes, I did and we even at one point decided that we'd get back together again because by then my son was living with me here and, you know, Cancerian

woman wants to be den mother and take care of things. But it wasn't to be. I think I called it off that second time before it had even started.

SM: How many children do you have?

EBK: I have two daughters one of whom works for BBC Radio Essex. She does the morning show there. Etholle is her name. It's a Belgian rooted name but everybody calls her "Et" and she signs her name when she signs things as "ET".

SM: You can't get away from this, can you?

EBK: No. Who'd have thunk that I would end up with a daughter working for radio?

SM: It's not an illogical connection to make.

EBK: No, its not but it blew me away when we found each other again.

SM: You'd lost contact for a while?

EBK: Yes. I have another daughter who's a computer wiz, a consultant who lives in the south west.

SM: Of?

EBK: England. Yeah, I had a couple of children.

SM: What, with your first wife?

EBK: No. It had nothing to do with my first wife.

SM: Ah, well you did mention earlier on in this conversation your son and you did mention that I think at the time.....

EBK: I have one son who is alive and one son who died.

SM: But you had no children by your first marriage?

EBK: Yes. That was Rick, the son who died. He died when he was 22.

SM: What were the circumstances of that?

EBK: In a police cell, he hung himself with his socks. A very troubled and unhappy young man. Nobody could do anything for him.

SM: That must still stay with you quite a bit I would think.

EBK: Yes. I mean that sort of stuff does not go away.

SM: I think suicide is one of the worst life events that can happen to the relatives of those left behind. It's utterly soul destroying.

EBK: Yes. You know you watch it play out and there's nothing you can do about it.

SM: I've seen the fallout from suicide on more than one occasion. It is just absolutely... it really is bad. I get the feeling that you're being very guarded about your children in terms of who mothered them. I'll put it colloquially and bluntly Errol; you've put it about a bit.

EBK: Err yes. That was part of my job too.

SM: You were paid to do that. I see.

EBK: Yes, I sowed my wild oats. It was a time of the beginning of the free love era and it was before the pill became popular. There were accidents.

SM: Don't get me wrong, I'm not judging you.

EBK: I know you're not but I'm just saying that life would have beenwell I'm glad they're around and I'm sure they would much prefer to be around than not be around. If the pill had been more available at the time then they'd probably not be around.

SM: It's nice to meet someone who embraced and enjoyed the 60s to the full. And you certainly sound like you did that!

EBK: I did, thank you very much, and it was much appreciated. God, life was very difficult being gonad driven for all those years.

SM: I'm glad that Great Britain could help.

EBK: Well it certainly did contribute and I'm happy to contribute to the tax payers.

SM: Right, we're back in Canada, Peace radio.....

EBK: We came back and did that and then the Toronto Peace Festival fell apart because there were a number of loonies involved that were spending John and Yoko's money like it was water and the name of the company that was staging the peace festival was Karma Productions and John and Yoko pulled out and John wrote a song called *Instant Karma*. Remember that?

SM: Just a bit, yes.

EBK: Well, that was the route of that song. The Martians were coming in great golden space ships, oh God.

SM: Can I stay briefly with the subject of John Lennon because obviously you feature one of his songs as the introduction to SDI, you obviously knew him and so on, and so has this past week (25th anniversary of his death) been of any sentiment to you?

EBK: Oh yeah. I spent an hour or two playing John Lennon songs yesterday while I was working. I have a massive collection of stuff here music wise. I had thousands of LPs. I replaced those LPs with CDs, got rid of those CDs when I decided I wouldn't disc jockey anymore, and then replaced all of the tracks on those CDs with MP3 files. I have about 30 gigabytes of music here.

SM: I'd like to descend into the vaults with this so to speak in the sense that it was only for the first time fairly recently a few months ago that I actually read something somewhere where it was suggested that Chapman might have been

EBK: A set up. Yes.

SM: That Lennon was an undesirable, America didn't want him and it was still at the time when the CIA were arrogant and uncontrollable.

EBK: Look what happened to the Kennedy's. There have long been stories about the CIA being involved there too. And look at what the CIA are doing now. It's just more of the same stuff that they've been covertly doing for years and Nixon didn't like Lennon. He had featured Nixon in one of his songs. There was a lot of animosity there between the two. Nixon loved Elvis; not John Lennon.

SM: If the American intelligence community was in some way responsible for the death of Lennon, the two Kennedy's and Luther King, then you've got to hand it to them because your first thought when you think about something like that is that they wouldn't dare to kill their president, they wouldn't dare to kill someone well known. How on earth are they going to get away with it? But.....they seem to have.

EBK: You and I will probably never know the truth. Maybe one day at some point something will surface but I don't feel that it's going to be in my lifetime or yours.

SM: I regret to say that you're probably right.

EBK: Any more than anything on this UFO business is going to surface in our lifetimes.

SM: You've resigned yourself to that, have you?

EBK: Pretty much but as I've said before you know, if I don't find out before I go, I'm going to come back as one pretty pissed ghost. But then, I'll probably know what there is to know about all of that.

SM: We're probably jumping a bit here but what made you turn to MUFON in Canada? As I understand it, that was the beginning of any active interest?

EBK: Pretty much. A couple of times I had read UFO related books. In the late 80's Alan Hynek was here in Toronto and I'd gone to a lecture of his and it sort of piqued my interest a little and I started reading some books on occasion, in among many other books.

Then one day I was watching one of the American channels here and they were running the *Unsolved Mysteries* show and they promo'ed a piece that was coming up on a UFO landing in Carp, Ontario, outside of Ottawa. And I thought, "That's interesting. I'll roll tape on that." So I did.

My first computer was an Atari which I inherited from my middle brother, a slower speed model Atari and one of the things that came on floppy disc with that was an astrology programme that had been written by a friend of my brother's who was an Atari programmer and reviewer back in those days. So I ran the astrology programme and thought there weren't enough interpretations in the programme. I had several astrological books which I then spent three months keying in in my spare time into this programme.

SM: In code?

EBK: No, just transcribing it because there were no scanners in those days and then dropping it in. The Atari code was such that you could drop text into it or there were files that you could set up so that it called the files. So I did that and once I completed that project I realised that there was life outside just the desk top machine that I had and I went out and bought myself a modem.

SM: So that was you on the Internet?

EBK: No, that was just buying a modem to get me out along the telephone lines. And at the same time I was in the computer store buying a modem, I picked up a computer newspaper and they were talking about BBS's in there and I thought, "That's interesting" and ran through the list and there was one there called the UFO Intelligence Network. So I dialled up the guy and talked to him and he said it was \$40 a year and I said OK, sign me up. So he did and I had access to his BBS and I started to read the Fido Echoes, Fido UFO, Bama, there were several included in that package I had access to with a MUFON channel.

So I started reading and I read for about six months before I actually started participating in things there. And then I bought myself another Atari and decided to set up a BBS and put it on the phone line and started carrying a lot of the stuff I had read; the Fido and the Bama and the MUFON stuff on my own single-line dial-up BBS. And that was the original UFO UpDates. That was '93 or '94.

My involvement with MUFON came after I had recorded the TV show and got my Atari and after I'd got hooked up with this UFO BBS and was reading stuff there. I had a phone call from a buddy of mine here telling me that he had a friend in Ottawa who he had told that I was on-line and this friend of his wanted to know what I knew about the Carp case.

So anyway I gave her a call and we had a long natter and I told her what I'd been reading about it and that I wasn't sure whether it was real or not. We talked about that and other things and then she said, "I have a friend in Toronto who'd probably like to talk to you" and so I said for her to give him my number. Now this was four days after I had read stuff on the MUFON system and as I was setting off to Ottawa to shoot video, I said to myself, "I have to get in touch with MUFON". Four days later I had this conversation with this woman and ten minutes after that the phone rings and a voice says, "Hi, This is Tom Theofanous of MUFON Ontario" so four days after telling myself to get in touch with these people, they get in touch with me. It was weird.

And the first case I looked into, along with Tom and Lise, Wayne St. John and Victor Lorenzo and the guys from Montreal was the Carp case, the so called landed UFO. And that was where I first learned how to really mistrust Bruce Maccabee, which you can quote me on.

SM: Yes, you've told this to me before. Not long after Nick's book came out and we were all really paranoid for a few weeks and you mentioned that then and the story of the guy in Nottingham.....

EBK: Oh Armen Victorian.

SM: Who accused him of being a double.

EBK: An ONI officer in naval intelligence. Yeah, it wouldn't surprise me at all. I mistrust him. He's on my List. He's always refused to talk about the Carp case and about his friend Bob Oechsler, the so-called investigator who looked in to the case. That was at the time when Maccabee sat in front of a TV monitor on camera on *Unsolved Mysteries* and said pointing to this image behind him, "This is the most genuine image of a landed UFO that I've ever seen."

SM: And to you it wasn't.

EBK: No. Because I'd been there and done the leg-work. If you actually go and read at the UFO UpDates archive, the investigation that MUFON Ontario conducted on that case, they were a bunch of shysters including Bob Oechsler who told Tom

Theofanous when Theofanous confronted him on all of the nonsense he was putting out, "You can fool a lot of the people a lot of the time and some of the people only some of the time. But the people that you can fool that you need to make money out of....." That's not verbatim, I forget exactly how he said it, but it's in that report. Maccabee and Oechsler were best friends. I mean, Tim Good was hoodwinked by Oechsler in *Above Top Secret* where he talks about running into Oechsler and the circus that went on.

SM: Tim's undergone a bit of a revision here over the last few years.

EBK: Well he's got taken in a few times. A very nice man; I've met him here. He has an aunt that lives in Toronto and he comes and visits her on occasion. He did a lecture at the Canadian Military Institute here in Toronto and I attended that and that's when he and I met and sat down and had a long natter. Doesn't want to come on the programme though.

So there I was; I'd set up this small BBS and I was using antiquated equipment and there was a much better way of doing communications as far as UFOs were concerned and that was to sell off a lot of stuff and buy myself my first PC. I did that and got myself an Internet connection and the first place I went to was the news groups. What chaos that was, God. There was nowhere for those seriously interested in UFOs or for serious researchers or authors or for those who were UFO mainstream involved to go and talk because they were constantly being interrupted by total fuck-wits. Losers.

So I saw there was a hole there that needed to be filled and I did. I actually started UFO UpDates back in January of '96 so I'm coming up for ten years although the archive didn't start until the following December. And I still have early stuff here that I keep meaning to upload from the early days but haven't managed to get around to that yet!

SM: Was it a slow start to begin with?

EBK: There were 15/20 people. I knew John Velez because I had met John and Budd Hopkins when they were in town doing a God awful TV show that they did here. There were maybe a half a dozen people in the field that I had connected with since I had started up the BBS. I'd been to a couple of lectures here and bumped into various people so I had some email addresses and then they told a friend and so on etc.

SM: At what point did it become a closed List or was it a closed List right from the beginning?

EBK: It was a closed List right from the outset. There was never any automation going on. It was always me sitting here or wherever here was doing the work. The whole point of UFO UpDates was that I sat between the sender and the receiver.

SM: If I understand it correctly, at one point membership was restricted? Would that be right?

EBK: No.

SM: Well John Velez has made a comment more than once over the years about how the decision was made to let the public in. Have I misunderstood him?

EBK: There was never any conscious decision. I think it still says at the archives something about it being a hand operated email service for the study of UFO

related phenomenon. There was never any restriction on the membership and just as more and more people became aware of it, it went from being a seemingly closed List to letting others in. And the proportion still is way more UFO related people than civilians.

SM: What do you mean by civilians?

EBK: People who don't spend a lot of time dabbling in the field. I have hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of subscribers but only a small number contribute posts.

SM: Indeed and I want to get on to that point but can I back track slightly. When automation came in, why did you carry on as you are?

EBK: I'm not a control freak but I am an editor and I wanted to be able to maintain a reasonable level of stability, if one can believe that. I didn't want it to deteriorate into stupidity which a number of Lists that had started out with good intentions had deteriorated into. For example, I had Jack Sarfatti on this List for a while. A belligerent man and I've had several belligerent people on the List who I have suffered for a while and then said, "OK. Enough. Goodbye". And I wanted to be able to maintain a certain level of integrity, if you like, for the List. I'm sure that I've pissed-off a lot of people over the course of the last ten years but then that's because of them, not because of me.

SM: Well you may have pissed some off but they've also pissed you off so it works both ways. Who's the worst person in your mind, the one that's caused you the most grief or irritation?

EBK: Jim Mortellaro claimed to be an abductee and then it was just endless with him. I put up with this man for ages and it turned out he was a lying bastard.

SM: That must have come as a surprise.

EBK: Not really. I just had to wait for him to show his hand. Then he went off and Budd Hopkins was going to investigate his case and then Budd called me and Budd and I had always had an amicable relationship. I wouldn't say we were friends but we had spent time together and I'd helped him out and he'd helped me out. We had a good working relationship and he called me one night and said, "Errol, I'm really concerned about your attitude toward Jim Mortellaro. I've taken on his case and I would like it if you would to issue a statement saying that your personal feelings about Jim Mortellaro should in no way effect the potential outcome of this case", which I did.

And then a few months later, Budd Hopkins discovered Jim Mortellaro was a lying son of a bitch. He'd taken him in too. I have never been tempted to call Budd and say, "See, I told you so", having warned him during the course of the conversation that he was going to come up with egg on his face over this guy. I've also had a couple of problems with one of your countrymen over there.

SM: Roberts?

EBK: Yeah, Andy Roberts. But he's back on the List now. He's been back on for several months. It's his belligerence and whatever that north of England attitude is. I ran into a fair amount of that when I was in Yorkshire when I was fifteen years old. I think it's unnecessary to come off like that.

SM: Well you have been spared his most recent antics. He's been up to his usual tricks over here. Same old, same old.

EBK: That's certainly not the way to go about things. I try not to alienate anybody in this field, you know, and if I have and I'm not aware of it then it's been inadvertent and wasn't something I set out to do. I've tried to walk that fine line between everything.

SM: How come if Roberts has been back on for a few months he's not actually posted?

EBK: I don't think he's actually submitted anything for posting that I recall.

SM: He was having a moan on Joe's list recently about a posting on UpDates from Greg Boone. He was sending him up, basically. Somebody on List the other day called Greg naïve; I think it was Josh Goldstein. I'm not sure I'd quite agree with that but I do understand where Josh is coming from. Greg can be a bit exuberant.

EBK: Oh, yeah, the gee-whizzers. Fortunately not too many of them. Everything ebbs and flows as it has over the last ten years. We're in a period of uneasy peace at the moment.

SM: I think in the short term I would describe it as very flat, with a large dollop of disinterest.

EBK: Well people are burned out. What is there going on to discuss?

SM: You're fairly confident that something will happen?

EBK: I don't know whether anything will happen. I try not to make any guesses in this field.

SM: What you've not mentioned is that your dedication to UpDates has hurt you financially.

EBK: Oh very much, yes.

SM: Because presumably it means, because of the time taken, that you are unable to consider another job.

EBK: It's actually a combination of both UFO Updates and *Strange Days*... *Indeed* that's gotten in the way of my financial life. I used to do a lot of corporate show business and travelled a lot to some wonderful places and some wonderful 5 star hotels. I was doing corporate conventions wearing a variety of hats and making very good money for many years.

Doing the List, I would disappear for three or four days and that was OK but the problem is that most of these meetings were held off shore or occurred over a weekend and doing the radio programme got in the way of going away. I did it a couple of times with somebody filling in for me but it got to the point where the production companies that I worked for just didn't bother booking me anymore because they knew I was doing radio. And that's what I wanted to do.

SM: How did you get the gig for *Strange Days*?

EBK: Scott Robins and I, he's an old radio buddy from my CHUM and my Q107 days here in Toronto, it was 1997, February or March when we decided we would go down to Roswell for the July celebrations, the 50th anniversary. And then we

thought it would be a really good idea to get a sponsor by making a radio documentary out of it. We tried to get a sponsor and we didn't so Scott ended up not going and Sue Kovios, Mike Woods and I and Cathy, Mike's wife, ended up going to Roswell.

We came back and I had done a lot of interviews down there and recorded a lot of the seminars that were going on and came back but still didn't have a sponsor so what we decided to do was that we would pre produce a one hour radio programme done for FM stereo with no host, no beginning, no middle, no end. Just I guess an audio mosaic; a sound tapestry of UFO related stuff. It's funny because when we went into the studios to do it with one of the better recording studio sound engineers here who was used to dealing with music and we walked in, and one of the first things we said was, "OK, how many sets of headphones have you got here?" He said, "Well, I've got plenty". So I said, "Good. Pull them out because we're going to wear them right through this production."

And we produced this CD that was designed for FM radio for people to listen to in stereo on their headphones. It was quite an intense experience. So we produced this thing and went to a couple of radio stations and one of them happened to be CFRB and the station manager that was in there at the time was a guy called Bob Mackowicz. He said, "Ah, this is great!" I said, "Yeah well we don't want to do any live – it's all going to be pre-produced in a one hour weekly." So he said, "Well why don't you have a call-in afterwards?" I said to him, "I've never done talk radio. I'm not really interested, you know. I can talk about the things I need to talk about when I need to talk about them at my own pace but doing talk radio is really bloody scary." And he said, "Why don't we do this. Why don't you come in and do a few weeks of breaking-in and doing UFO talk radio and we'll talk about doing the pre-produced stuff", yada, yada, yada... and that's how it started. In fact I ended up working for a year and not getting paid a dime for what I was doing, maybe even longer; two years.

SM: How did they swing that?

EBK: Oh well, because thy owned the radio station and I didn't. And the more I got into it, the more I realised there was an interest in there and what I was doing, in this neighbourhood anyway, was needed. And that's what I did. Actually, I can scrape by on the money that SDI brings in, I scrape by, literally. If I wasn't living with a wonderful woman who was understanding, I would be in trouble. Then I had the second programme and that was bliss for a few months.

SM: When you say the second programme, do you mean *Mind/Shift*?

EBK: That was wonderful for however long that ran for, about a year and a half.

SM: That's all that *Mind/Shift* did?

EBK: Yes.

SM: I had the impression it was longer.

EBK: It was 102 or 104 programmes. That was wonderful because I was able to upgrade my equipment and actually live like somebody who was making more than \$3 a week. I was making \$6 a week!

SM: I still regard the decision to take that off as a bit weird.

EBK: Well the whole thing was very strange. First of all, to move SDI out of a Sunday night slot, although we were complaining we wanted three hours rather than two, so they moved us to a Saturday night and gave us three hours and the numbers were huge. Huge. I mean bigger than they've ever had at that time. Saturday night is just a dead zone for radio normally but the numbers were huge.

So then, I don't remember what they did on a Sunday night but then they figured that maybe they'd screwed up so, so and so was leaving and they wondered "what they could put in here". My partner and I, Gene Mascardelli, came up with *Mind/Shift* and they put us into that Sunday night slot and it was just great. The numbers were just monstrous again. Then, somebody was leaving another radio station and CFRB picked him up and thought that he might bring an additional 'book' as we call it, a ratings-diary. These things come out every reading period and randomly selected households are asked to keep track for two weeks of what they watch and listen to. And they decided to move *Mind Shift* to the Saturday night and when I was told that this was the reason for it, I said, "What!?, They're going to bring another book in and beat our 10.6 on a Sunday night?" "Oh, well we can't talk about that anymore now."

SM: And presumably he didn't?

EBK: No of course he didn't. And the guy who replaced us in that slot is gone now. *Mind Shift* as you know proceeded *Strange Days... Indeed*. They were two hours each on a Saturday night and although the numbers were improving for *Mind/Shift*, they really didn't give it a fair shake because apparently the numbers for the last book *Mind/Shift* fell into were huge.

The reason for dropping *Mind/Shift* I was told was because the numbers were disappointing. Well I think what had more of an effect were some of the topics that we got in to. Living on the fault-line here in Toronto, the St. Lawrence fault-line and with Pickering Nuclear power station out along eastern Toronto sitting right along that fault-line and the fact is, it's an active fault-line. We covered that a couple of times.

SM: I see.

EBK: So I think there were people who weren't really thrilled with some of the directions we were going in. Too real for them.

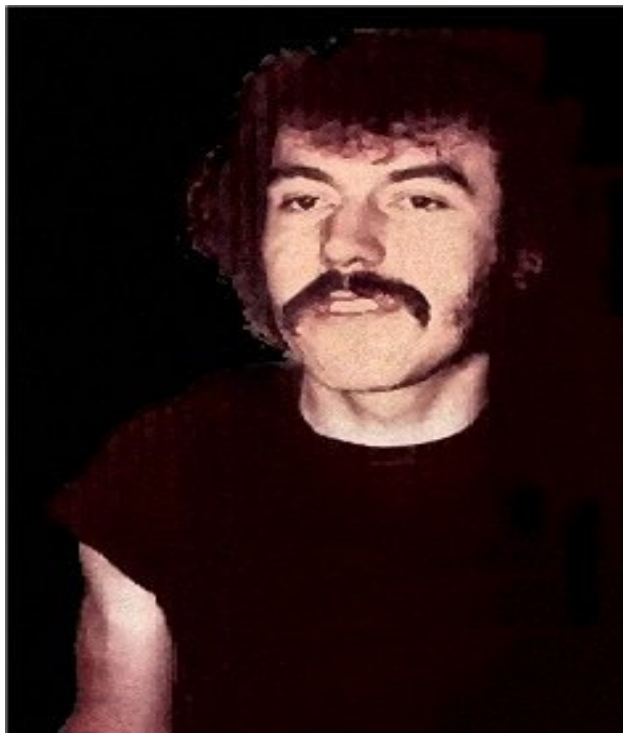
SM: Surprising though that it should have happened on *Mind/Shift* and not *SDI*. You'd have thought you'd have trod on more toes with *SDI*.

EBK: It seems to me that UFOs are actually OK as long as we don't get too close to the truth. I have said several times on air that I can't believe that I'm still here after seven years or whatever it is. I would have thought they would have dumped us out within the first six months.

SM: Do you know if anybody of "significance" listens to the show?

EBK: The reason Paul Hellyer got involved in what he's involved in now is he used to listen to us. A friend of his from his Gentleman's Club called the radio programme and said, "Hey, my friend Paul Hellyer listens to this radio programme." And he called a couple of times and mentioned Hellyer's name. The second or third time he called I said, "Listen, I'm going to put you on hold. Leave your number and we'll talk off-air." He did, and I then handed off to Victor to talk to him (Victor Viggiani – co host on Errol's *SDI*). That's how Paul Hellyer got involved in Exopolitics.

SM: Seems to me there is the beginnings of...



Errol in his ladykiller days

EBK: More stupidity.

SM: No. a slight revisionist attitude to Mr. Hellyer who was initially condemned but now one or two people are sort of saying... well, Don Ledger, Alfred,

EBK: Alfred who?

SM: Alfred Lehmberg.

EBK: It's that old thing about any port in a storm. The means justifies the end. We went through that whole thing with bloody Steven Greer and his Disclosure thing in the States. We were organising a couple of things up here and Alfred Webre popped out of the woodwork and started telling us this and that and I eventually said, and this was two or three years ago, "I'm not going to be involved in anything that Alfred Webre is involved in.

SM: Why don't you care for him?

EBK: Because he's a loose-cannon. The man is erratic and he can't focus and UFOs is what we're focussed on and this whole Star Dreams initiative, Star Wars Defence initiative, Steven Greer, the lying shysters and all of the other nonsense this man is spouting just gets in the way and up here in Canada we have one chance. Just like Greer had the one chance at the possibility of getting Senate Hearings in the United States and he blew it. He showed up at the press conference with all of these witnesses without having checked them all out and you got the Warrens and the Clifford Stones and a couple of other people there, all ready to swear on their lives, and lying shysters, some of them.

So what we have now going on is an absorption of Alfred Webre and Steven Greer and all his nonsense and Michael Salla and this is a combination that ain't gonna work. And as I've said to Victor, my concern for Victor is that he's going to get dragged down and tarred with the same brush as all of these other people. Exopolitics ain't going to work. They have one run at it here and they're going to blow it. Shall I tell you what I really think now?

SM: Why are you so confident that it won't work?

EBK: The problem is, and it was the same thing with the potential for hearings in the United States, one or two bad apples in the barrel screws the whole barrel. You gotta toss 'em all out. So all they have to do is investigate any one of these people and their claims, like Clifford Stone, who is a shining example of an Exopolitics witness, and look into his background, and it turns out that very little of it is true, and its goodbye. You throw the baby out with the bath water, and that's what concerns me.

Let's focus on UFOs. Let's not bother with free energy and Star Wars Defence initiatives and all of that stuff. Focus on UFOs. Why is Webre there? What does he contribute?

SM: He's a futurist.

EBK: (Audible sigh). OK.

SM: It's an interesting point about what you were just saying about throwing all the rotten apples out but of course that is where you get into the vicious cycle with Exopolitics because what you see as a discredited witness to Exopolitics is somebody who has had his education and military records tampered with. So they're not going to throw him out because although he's a liar, he's telling the truth.

EBK: Yes, well OK, and that's the problem. They're not able to discern or to differentiate. The filters are switched off.

SM: I don't think they are. Don't get me wrong Errol; don't read in to what I'm about to say as support or validation for Exopolitics but I can understand where they are coming from. I don't think it will work but I *can* get it. For years, sensible, properly organised research etc has not got us that far so it's a case of draw a line under it; we've done that, that's not got us anywhere. Let's work to a structure and a frame which is less demanding because we want answers, and if we ignore the weaknesses in people's backgrounds and are prepared to take for granted or accept what they say, that gives us answers even if the answers are a load of bollocks.

EBK: Yes, but the problem is when the answers become apparent as a load of bollocks, when you get through to the people you want to get through to, then what happens? These people turn round to them and say, "This is rubbish. If you're presenting these people as the best and you want us to look into this as a result of what they told you, then just take one person and check him out and look at the actual record and what he claims and what the actual record shows about what he did and the way his story has changed as in Clifford Stone's case..... "

Take Paul Hellyer. The two people he is relying on for his information are Alfred Webre and Philip Corso.

SM: On the other hand Errol, I have to say that one of the most amusing elements of the discourse on UpDates over the last 18 months or so is the way that Michael

Salla has taken everything thrown at him and been able to bat it back. In other words, people haven't bettered him in discussion; they've just given up in frustration. It's been amusing to watch that

EBK: There's been no point in continuing that discussion and it would be probably at some point along the line where I would step in as the moderator and say, "OK. Everything that needs to be said has been said now. Let's wait to see what happens".

SM: I think if the circumstances are right, I can see Exopolitics possibly taking off.

EBK: Well wouldn't it be nice if I was wrong and it did and something came out of it. I think that first of all it would be a miracle for a couple of reasons and second of all, just absolutely amazing, but I don't see it happening and I don't anticipate it happening and it's really... it's annoying, it's annoying because it just gets in the way. We cloud the issue with non-facts.

SM: What else has got your goat over the years?

EBK: Curiously, not much. There really isn't a lot that has got my goat; just the futility of the actions of some people. Greer got my goat first of all when he swiped all of that material, the FUFOR material and plagiarised it and claimed it as his own. And then we he blithely introduced the subject of free energy or whatever the hell it was at the Disclosure conference three years ago. It's insane. I don't know if you get any of Webre's stuff also but he's putting out these densely packed, densely worded, impossible to read statements and he's putting these out to the press.

SM: What expectations if any do you have for the future?

EBK: I don't think I've ever had any expectations. I know what I would like. I would like for a crack to appear so that if vital information slips out of that crack then we can know one way or t'other and go back to our lives. As my mother says, "Get a real life". Let's resolve this one way or the other. A lot of us will be out of work and that's perfectly fine with me. We'll be able to follow up for a year or so and then the public will lose interest. "Oh yeah; aliens are real. That's good."

SM: Of course they won't lose interest. I don't believe that. Coming back to something that we were mentioning earlier; why do you think there is such a big disparity between the volume of membership on UpDates and the number of people that actually contribute to the List?

EBK: Well I've heard it said that people are afraid to post to the List but I don't know who started that one.

SM: Have you ever had an individual turn around to you and say that they were afraid to post or words to that effect?

EBK: No, never. It's always second or third hand – "I've been exchanging emails with people that are afraid to post to the List". Well that's nonsense.

SM: I have a certain sympathy with that to be honest. I think it can be intimidating.

EBK: Absolutely. When you look at the names that post and the way some of them come off but that's the nature of UFO UpDates. In the past I've been hesitant to cut things off immediately just because a lot of the "discussion", which is putting it politely, that has gone on has amply illustrated the personalities of the people

involved. Yes it can be intimidating. It's something that's been around for ten years and there are some very knowledgeable people on the List.

But at the same time there are people who are relative newcomers who will pose questions, or post comments, and they either get responses or ridicule.

SM: Well you've seen the whole process countless times and obviously as List owner and moderator there is a certain element of familiarity with the whole thing but I guess to somebody who is new to it, they won't read it like you read it.

EBK: No, but in the same way I started my BBS where I spent six months just reading what there was available, there are close to 64,000 messages at the archive and the search engine; before you ask any questions, before you make any observations, do a search, do some research.

SM: Fair point.

EBK: I still once or twice a month get submissions from newbies who are asking a question about something that has been more than adequately covered on the List in the past. So what I do is, I go to the archive and I do the search on that subject and I send them the Google URL that's generated for that search, and I say, "Go read these before you comment and if you still feel you need to pose a question, then feel free to do so, because I don't want all of that stuff dredged up again, because it's there for anybody that's willing to go look for it". And people do. Look at the numbers. It blew my mind yesterday when I sat down and worked out all those numbers. It'll be a shade under 6 million on the 31st of this month!

See end of interview for stats for 2005.

SM: They are incredible numbers. They're very consistent. There's not a lot of variation.

EBK: No. In the same way there is churn in the subscribers to the List in terms of membership turnover, there are people who become excited about the archives and go through it and their interest peaks and then dies away because there is nothing new really, other than the news stories, thank you.

SM: When you've had a resignation or an unsubscription from the List, has there ever been an occasion when somebody's done that and you've thought, "Oh, that's a pity. I'm sorry to see him go and I wonder why?"

EBK: I can think of several like that and I've found out afterwards that they've become ill or afflicted or whatever. There have been a few where I've gone, "Ah, that's too bad". But only one or two of them haven't come back. I guess the most prominent one was Dennis Stacy but he just got tired of all the newbies and all the bullshit, you know? That's what I think but I don't know for sure whether I should actually be quoted as saying that. I don't know, but that's the impression I got. He just got tired. I noticed he's popped up again on the private Project 1947 List. Actually, I'm awaiting the return of Rich Reynolds and his blog.

SM: Where's he gone?

EBK: I don't know. He just disappeared off the face of the earth.

SM: Yes he did and I thought he'd suffered a serious health hiccup. I did mail him but I didn't get a reply. Somebody else said they saw him on another board a week or two later and he was expressing the opinion that he was just tired of all the hassle I think, really.

EBK: The hassle was created by his guys. The whole Lehmborg thing was really just outrageous. After I had posted my message to the List about him and what a despicable man his guy who wrote it was, and then I went back to the blog and looked and there was this post there saying Errol Bruce Knapp was an old fart and symptomatic of the problem with Ufology today and I thought, "Really? OK." I didn't bother to save that page as I often do. I've saved other stuff in the past as HTML, and the RR group disappeared. But who knows. I just go on and do what I do and I guess I will do that until I am no longer able to do it. That's what I do.

SM: As far as I'm concerned, and I think as far as a lot of people are concerned, and you won't be surprised to hear this but to me, UFO UpDates is *the* place to be. If you're not at least following the posts to the List, you're not really following Ufology in many ways I think.

EBK: It's one of the reasons why I do what I do. If I didn't do it, who would?

SM: You're right because there's immense apathy within Ufology.

EBK: That's a concern for the future too. None of us stay here for any length of time and it would be a shame, were I to kick the bucket, that it wasn't maintained in the same way that it has been for the last ten years.

SM: It would be a travesty actually. You have no choice Errol. You can't kick the bucket for at least another twenty years, if not more.

EBK: I don't anticipate doing that but you just never know.

SM: Errol, thank you.

To subscribe to UFO UpDates, please send your **first and last names** to ufoupdates@virtuallystrange.net

Message submissions should be sent to the **same** address.

UFO UpDates Archives are available at The Virtually Strange Network:
<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/>

Listen to 'Strange Days... Indeed' Saturday night at 21:00 Eastern on NewsTalk 1010 CFRB - Toronto <http://www.cfrb.com>. Montreal's NewsTalk Leader CJAD 800 <http://www.cjad.com> and via The Web:

<http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/sdi/program/>

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - January - 2005

Date: 2005.1.1 - Total Message Hits = 11672
 Date: 2005.1.2 - Total Message Hits = 13091
 Date: 2005.1.3 - Total Message Hits = 14992
 Date: 2005.1.4 - Total Message Hits = 12779
 Date: 2005.1.5 - Total Message Hits = 21834
 Date: 2005.1.6 - Total Message Hits = 25826
 Date: 2005.1.7 - Total Message Hits = 19132
 Date: 2005.1.8 - Total Message Hits = 19708
 Date: 2005.1.9 - Total Message Hits = 13083
 Date: 2005.1.10 - Total Message Hits = 14442
 Date: 2005.1.11 - Total Message Hits = 18189
 Date: 2005.1.12 - Total Message Hits = 21148
 Date: 2005.1.13 - Total Message Hits = 25492
 Date: 2005.1.14 - Total Message Hits = 29291
 Date: 2005.1.15 - Total Message Hits = 24508
 Date: 2005.1.16 - Total Message Hits = 18350
 Date: 2005.1.17 - Total Message Hits = 32546
 Date: 2005.1.18 - Total Message Hits = 27945
 Date: 2005.1.19 - Total Message Hits = 11600
 Date: 2005.1.20 - Total Message Hits = 11782
 Date: 2005.1.21 - Total Message Hits = 10176
 Date: 2005.1.22 - Total Message Hits = 7975
 Date: 2005.1.23 - Total Message Hits = 9566
 Date: 2005.1.24 - Total Message Hits = 8730
 Date: 2005.1.25 - Total Message Hits = 11311
 Date: 2005.1.26 - Total Message Hits = 8527
 Date: 2005.1.27 - Total Message Hits = 8514
 Date: 2005.1.28 - Total Message Hits = 9947
 Date: 2005.1.29 - Total Message Hits = 10505
 Date: 2005.1.30 - Total Message Hits = 9983
 Date: 2005.1.31 - Total Message Hits = 9169

491813

Daily Average = 15864

Running Total = 491813

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - February - 2005

Date: 2005.2.1 - Total Message Hits = 9866
 Date: 2005.2.2 - Total Message Hits = 9523
 Date: 2005.2.3 - Total Message Hits = 10499
 Date: 2005.2.4 - Total Message Hits = 15020
 Date: 2005.2.5 - Total Message Hits = 8178

Date: 2005.2.6 - Total Message Hits = 13085
 Date: 2005.2.7 - Total Message Hits = 12184
 Date: 2005.2.8 - Total Message Hits = 12724
 Date: 2005.2.9 - Total Message Hits = 12144
 Date: 2005.2.10 - Total Message Hits = 11521
 Date: 2005.2.11 - Total Message Hits = 9027
 Date: 2005.2.12 - Total Message Hits = 10401
 Date: 2005.2.13 - Total Message Hits = 7499
 Date: 2005.2.14 - Total Message Hits = 10095
 Date: 2005.2.15 - Total Message Hits = 7567
 Date: 2005.2.16 - Total Message Hits = 11744
 Date: 2005.2.17 - Total Message Hits = 14423
 Date: 2005.2.18 - Total Message Hits = 24377
 Date: 2005.2.19 - Total Message Hits = 20215
 Date: 2005.2.20 - Total Message Hits = 15376
 Date: 2005.2.21 - Total Message Hits = 17545
 Date: 2005.2.22 - Total Message Hits = 22354
 Date: 2005.2.23 - Total Message Hits = 16522
 Date: 2005.2.24 - Total Message Hits = 11629
 Date: 2005.2.25 - Total Message Hits = 14388
 Date: 2005.2.26 - Total Message Hits = 10154
 Date: 2005.2.27 - Total Message Hits = 11903
 Date: 2005.2.28 - Total Message Hits = 12165

362128

Daily Average = 12933

Running Total = 853941

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - March - 2005

Date: 2005.3.1 - Total Message Hits = 8610
 Date: 2005.3.2 - Total Message Hits = 7658
 Date: 2005.3.3 - Total Message Hits = 10777
 Date: 2005.3.4 - Total Message Hits = 8143
 Date: 2005.3.5 - Total Message Hits = 6004
 Date: 2005.3.6 - Total Message Hits = 15368
 Date: 2005.3.7 - Total Message Hits = 10862
 Date: 2005.3.8 - Total Message Hits = 14457
 Date: 2005.3.10 - Total Message Hits = 11978
 Date: 2005.3.11 - Total Message Hits = 9474
 Date: 2005.3.12 - Total Message Hits = 10677
 Date: 2005.3.13 - Total Message Hits = 8660
 Date: 2005.3.14 - Total Message Hits = 10368
 Date: 2005.3.15 - Total Message Hits = 14076
 Date: 2005.3.16 - Total Message Hits = 10711
 Date: 2005.3.17 - Total Message Hits = 11319
 Date: 2005.3.18 - Total Message Hits = 13780

Date: 2005.3.19 - Total Message Hits = 15444
 Date: 2005.3.20 - Total Message Hits = 24020
 Date: 2005.3.21 - Total Message Hits = 8629
 Date: 2005.3.22 - Total Message Hits = 13078
 Date: 2005.3.23 - Total Message Hits = 26621
 Date: 2005.3.24 - Total Message Hits = 21307
 Date: 2005.3.25 - Total Message Hits = 11725
 Date: 2005.3.26 - Total Message Hits = 11419
 Date: 2005.3.27 - Total Message Hits = 10153
 Date: 2005.3.28 - Total Message Hits = 8605
 Date: 2005.3.29 - Total Message Hits = 9179
 Date: 2005.3.30 - Total Message Hits = 11074
 Date: 2005.3.31 - Total Message Hits = 9113

373966

Daily Average = 12063

Running Total = 1227907

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - April - 2005

Date: 2005.4.1 - Total Message Hits = 9246
 Date: 2005.4.2 - Total Message Hits = 11196
 Date: 2005.4.3 - Total Message Hits = 11391
 Date: 2005.4.4 - Total Message Hits = 16472
 Date: 2005.4.5 - Total Message Hits = 8992
 Date: 2005.4.6 - Total Message Hits = 11048
 Date: 2005.4.7 - Total Message Hits = 9178
 Date: 2005.4.8 - Total Message Hits = 7276
 Date: 2005.4.9 - Total Message Hits = 6660
 Date: 2005.4.10 - Total Message Hits = 7072
 Date: 2005.4.11 - Total Message Hits = 8589
 Date: 2005.4.12 - Total Message Hits = 9954
 Date: 2005.4.13 - Total Message Hits = 12082
 Date: 2005.4.14 - Total Message Hits = 12318
 Date: 2005.4.15 - Total Message Hits = 8682
 Date: 2005.4.16 - Total Message Hits = 9249
 Date: 2005.4.17 - Total Message Hits = 10373
 Date: 2005.4.18 - Total Message Hits = 11906
 Date: 2005.4.19 - Total Message Hits = 19005
 Date: 2005.4.20 - Total Message Hits = 13420
 Date: 2005.4.21 - Total Message Hits = 11277
 Date: 2005.4.22 - Total Message Hits = 14152
 Date: 2005.4.24 - Total Message Hits = 8815
 Date: 2005.4.25 - Total Message Hits = 9024
 Date: 2005.4.26 - Total Message Hits = 10616
 Date: 2005.4.27 - Total Message Hits = 10448
 Date: 2005.4.28 - Total Message Hits = 10320

Date: 2005.4.29 - Total Message Hits = 11386

Date: 2005.4.30 - Total Message Hits = 12511

312658

Daily Average = 10422

Running Total = 1540565

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - May - 2005

Date: 2005.5.1 - Total Message Hits = 5184

Date: 2005.5.2 - Total Message Hits = 30288

Date: 2005.5.3 - Total Message Hits = 30515

Date: 2005.5.4 - Total Message Hits = 12058

Date: 2005.5.5 - Total Message Hits = 11820

Date: 2005.5.6 - Total Message Hits = 12810

Date: 2005.5.7 - Total Message Hits = 28595

Date: 2005.5.8 - Total Message Hits = 25600

Date: 2005.5.9 - Total Message Hits = 13919

Date: 2005.5.10 - Total Message Hits = 34987

Date: 2005.5.11 - Total Message Hits = 41170

Date: 2005.5.12 - Total Message Hits = 19113

Date: 2005.5.13 - Total Message Hits = 10781

Date: 2005.5.14 - Total Message Hits = 10054

Date: 2005.5.15 - Total Message Hits = 6077

Date: 2005.5.16 - Total Message Hits = 8323

Date: 2005.5.17 - Total Message Hits = 10914

Date: 2005.5.18 - Total Message Hits = 11980

Date: 2005.5.19 - Total Message Hits = 16814

Date: 2005.5.20 - Total Message Hits = 12869

Date: 2005.5.21 - Total Message Hits = 6904

Date: 2005.5.22 - Total Message Hits = 13362

Date: 2005.5.23 - Total Message Hits = 17164

Date: 2005.5.24 - Total Message Hits = 11606

Date: 2005.5.25 - Total Message Hits = 11524

Date: 2005.5.26 - Total Message Hits = 12195

Date: 2005.5.27 - Total Message Hits = 19061

Date: 2005.5.28 - Total Message Hits = 24584

Date: 2005.5.29 - Total Message Hits = 18341

Date: 2005.5.30 - Total Message Hits = 11252

Date: 2005.5.31 - Total Message Hits = 9908

509772

Daily Average = 16444

Running Total = 2050337

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - June - 2005

Date: 2005.6.1 - Total Message Hits = 11667
 Date: 2005.6.2 - Total Message Hits = 10560
 Date: 2005.6.3 - Total Message Hits = 8751
 Date: 2005.6.4 - Total Message Hits = 9945
 Date: 2005.6.5 - Total Message Hits = 8181
 Date: 2005.6.6 - Total Message Hits = 10135
 Date: 2005.6.7 - Total Message Hits = 9343
 Date: 2005.6.8 - Total Message Hits = 9568
 Date: 2005.6.9 - Total Message Hits = 9716
 Date: 2005.6.10 - Total Message Hits = 10048
 Date: 2005.6.11 - Total Message Hits = 13002
 Date: 2005.6.12 - Total Message Hits = 13022
 Date: 2005.6.13 - Total Message Hits = 33078
 Date: 2005.6.14 - Total Message Hits = 52630
 Date: 2005.6.15 - Total Message Hits = 12146
 Date: 2005.6.16 - Total Message Hits = 11426
 Date: 2005.6.17 - Total Message Hits = 12685
 Date: 2005.6.18 - Total Message Hits = 12094
 Date: 2005.6.19 - Total Message Hits = 12037
 Date: 2005.6.21 - Total Message Hits = 15737
 Date: 2005.6.22 - Total Message Hits = 17339
 Date: 2005.6.23 - Total Message Hits = 15707
 Date: 2005.6.24 - Total Message Hits = 15805
 Date: 2005.6.25 - Total Message Hits = 14892
 Date: 2005.6.26 - Total Message Hits = 17173
 Date: 2005.6.27 - Total Message Hits = 15146
 Date: 2005.6.28 - Total Message Hits = 16580
 Date: 2005.6.29 - Total Message Hits = 15023
 Date: 2005.6.30 - Total Message Hits = 13933

427369

Daily Average = 14246

Running Total = 2477706

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - July - 2005

Date: 2005.7.1 - Total Message Hits = 11611
 Date: 2005.7.2 - Total Message Hits = 11979
 Date: 2005.7.3 - Total Message Hits = 10878
 Date: 2005.7.4 - Total Message Hits = 10921
 Date: 2005.7.5 - Total Message Hits = 9958
 Date: 2005.7.6 - Total Message Hits = 9914
 Date: 2005.7.7 - Total Message Hits = 11355
 Date: 2005.7.8 - Total Message Hits = 10236
 Date: 2005.7.9 - Total Message Hits = 12822
 Date: 2005.7.10 - Total Message Hits = 11581

Date: 2005.7.11 - Total Message Hits = 11607
 Date: 2005.7.12 - Total Message Hits = 11587
 Date: 2005.7.13 - Total Message Hits = 17147
 Date: 2005.7.14 - Total Message Hits = 12160
 Date: 2005.7.15 - Total Message Hits = 26287
 Date: 2005.7.16 - Total Message Hits = 15279
 Date: 2005.7.17 - Total Message Hits = 20258
 Date: 2005.7.18 - Total Message Hits = 23188
 Date: 2005.7.19 - Total Message Hits = 36777
 Date: 2005.7.20 - Total Message Hits = 13532
 Date: 2005.7.21 - Total Message Hits = 21109
 Date: 2005.7.22 - Total Message Hits = 19519
 Date: 2005.7.23 - Total Message Hits = 13532
 Date: 2005.7.24 - Total Message Hits = 20705
 Date: 2005.7.25 - Total Message Hits = 12351
 Date: 2005.7.26 - Total Message Hits = 12829
 Date: 2005.7.27 - Total Message Hits = 12267
 Date: 2005.7.28 - Total Message Hits = 25970
 Date: 2005.7.29 - Total Message Hits = 11880
 Date: 2005.7.30 - Total Message Hits = 11662
 Date: 2005.7.31 - Total Message Hits = 9028

469929

Daily Average = 15159

Running Total = 2947635

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - August - 2005

Date: 2005.8.1 - Total Message Hits = 11792
 Date: 2005.8.2 - Total Message Hits = 11898
 Date: 2005.8.3 - Total Message Hits = 12929
 Date: 2005.8.4 - Total Message Hits = 26594
 Date: 2005.8.5 - Total Message Hits = 14715
 Date: 2005.8.6 - Total Message Hits = 10558
 Date: 2005.8.7 - Total Message Hits = 10920
 Date: 2005.8.8 - Total Message Hits = 14239
 Date: 2005.8.9 - Total Message Hits = 12445
 Date: 2005.8.10 - Total Message Hits = 11512
 Date: 2005.8.11 - Total Message Hits = 11636
 Date: 2005.8.12 - Total Message Hits = 13333
 Date: 2005.8.13 - Total Message Hits = 10256
 Date: 2005.8.15 - Total Message Hits = 13623
 Date: 2005.8.16 - Total Message Hits = 13584
 Date: 2005.8.17 - Total Message Hits = 16153
 Date: 2005.8.18 - Total Message Hits = 10971
 Date: 2005.8.19 - Total Message Hits = 11886
 Date: 2005.8.20 - Total Message Hits = 10075
 Date: 2005.8.21 - Total Message Hits = 13374

Date: 2005.8.22 - Total Message Hits = 11401
 Date: 2005.8.23 - Total Message Hits = 20826
 Date: 2005.8.24 - Total Message Hits = 23460
 Date: 2005.8.25 - Total Message Hits = 17439
 Date: 2005.8.26 - Total Message Hits = 17501
 Date: 2005.8.27 - Total Message Hits = 17144
 Date: 2005.8.28 - Total Message Hits = 15875
 Date: 2005.8.29 - Total Message Hits = 14711
 Date: 2005.8.30 - Total Message Hits = 17756
 Date: 2005.8.31 - Total Message Hits = 22910

452121

Daily Average = 14585

Running Total = 3399756

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - September - 2005

Date: 2005.9.1 - Total Message Hits = 26708
 Date: 2005.9.2 - Total Message Hits = 25470
 Date: 2005.9.3 - Total Message Hits = 20693
 Date: 2005.9.4 - Total Message Hits = 31003
 Date: 2005.9.5 - Total Message Hits = 34706
 Date: 2005.9.6 - Total Message Hits = 20854
 Date: 2005.9.7 - Total Message Hits = 14156
 Date: 2005.9.8 - Total Message Hits = 16570
 Date: 2005.9.9 - Total Message Hits = 19716
 Date: 2005.9.10 - Total Message Hits = 58337
 Date: 2005.9.11 - Total Message Hits = 40986
 Date: 2005.9.12 - Total Message Hits = 20634
 Date: 2005.9.13 - Total Message Hits = 17063
 Date: 2005.9.14 - Total Message Hits = 16456
 Date: 2005.9.15 - Total Message Hits = 14221
 Date: 2005.9.16 - Total Message Hits = 17112
 Date: 2005.9.17 - Total Message Hits = 15916
 Date: 2005.9.18 - Total Message Hits = 11730
 Date: 2005.9.19 - Total Message Hits = 14515
 Date: 2005.9.20 - Total Message Hits = 17282
 Date: 2005.9.21 - Total Message Hits = 23027
 Date: 2005.9.22 - Total Message Hits = 14473
 Date: 2005.9.23 - Total Message Hits = 25223
 Date: 2005.9.24 - Total Message Hits = 27453
 Date: 2005.9.25 - Total Message Hits = 14328
 Date: 2005.9.26 - Total Message Hits = 15189
 Date: 2005.9.27 - Total Message Hits = 24025
 Date: 2005.9.28 - Total Message Hits = 13865
 Date: 2005.9.29 - Total Message Hits = 25500
 Date: 2005.9.30 - Total Message Hits = 14688

651899
 Daily Average = 21730
 Running Total = 4051655

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - October - 2005

Date: 2005.10.1 - Total Message Hits = 16552
 Date: 2005.10.2 - Total Message Hits = 15059
 Date: 2005.10.3 - Total Message Hits = 12693
 Date: 2005.10.4 - Total Message Hits = 13808
 Date: 2005.10.5 - Total Message Hits = 14406
 Date: 2005.10.6 - Total Message Hits = 26267
 Date: 2005.10.7 - Total Message Hits = 13384
 Date: 2005.10.8 - Total Message Hits = 14055
 Date: 2005.10.9 - Total Message Hits = 24821
 Date: 2005.10.10 - Total Message Hits = 13848
 Date: 2005.10.11 - Total Message Hits = 14951
 Date: 2005.10.12 - Total Message Hits = 34381
 Date: 2005.10.13 - Total Message Hits = 16582
 Date: 2005.10.14 - Total Message Hits = 15366
 Date: 2005.10.15 - Total Message Hits = 14169
 Date: 2005.10.16 - Total Message Hits = 27068
 Date: 2005.10.17 - Total Message Hits = 26903
 Date: 2005.10.18 - Total Message Hits = 26304
 Date: 2005.10.19 - Total Message Hits = 18040
 Date: 2005.10.20 - Total Message Hits = 16351
 Date: 2005.10.21 - Total Message Hits = 21163
 Date: 2005.10.22 - Total Message Hits = 18970
 Date: 2005.10.23 - Total Message Hits = 11912
 Date: 2005.10.24 - Total Message Hits = 15373
 Date: 2005.10.25 - Total Message Hits = 46334
 Date: 2005.10.26 - Total Message Hits = 16720
 Date: 2005.10.27 - Total Message Hits = 19910
 Date: 2005.10.28 - Total Message Hits = 23116
 Date: 2005.10.29 - Total Message Hits = 31179
 Date: 2005.10.30 - Total Message Hits = 17337
 Date: 2005.10.31 - Total Message Hits = 19934

616956
 Daily Average = 19902
 Running Total = 4668611

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - November - 2005

Date: 2005.11.1 - Total Message Hits = 22483
 Date: 2005.11.2 - Total Message Hits = 13378

Date: 2005.11.3 - Total Message Hits = 26300
 Date: 2005.11.4 - Total Message Hits = 20628
 Date: 2005.11.5 - Total Message Hits = 17746
 Date: 2005.11.6 - Total Message Hits = 15175
 Date: 2005.11.7 - Total Message Hits = 18836
 Date: 2005.11.8 - Total Message Hits = 33433
 Date: 2005.11.9 - Total Message Hits = 15593
 Date: 2005.11.10 - Total Message Hits = 16829
 Date: 2005.11.11 - Total Message Hits = 12687
 Date: 2005.11.12 - Total Message Hits = 14478
 Date: 2005.11.13 - Total Message Hits = 45299
 Date: 2005.11.14 - Total Message Hits = 13364
 Date: 2005.11.15 - Total Message Hits = 14674
 Date: 2005.11.16 - Total Message Hits = 26654
 Date: 2005.11.17 - Total Message Hits = 12836
 Date: 2005.11.18 - Total Message Hits = 14609
 Date: 2005.11.19 - Total Message Hits = 14395
 Date: 2005.11.20 - Total Message Hits = 15441
 Date: 2005.11.21 - Total Message Hits = 15904
 Date: 2005.11.22 - Total Message Hits = 14949
 Date: 2005.11.23 - Total Message Hits = 12652
 Date: 2005.11.25 - Total Message Hits = 14290
 Date: 2005.11.26 - Total Message Hits = 17392
 Date: 2005.11.27 - Total Message Hits = 17733
 Date: 2005.11.28 - Total Message Hits = 51435
 Date: 2005.11.29 - Total Message Hits = 18045
 Date: 2005.11.30 - Total Message Hits = 17363

564601

Daily Average = 18820

Running Total = 5233212

UFO UpDates E-Mail List Archive Stats - December - 2005

Date: 2005.12.1 - Total Message Hits = 28135
 Date: 2005.12.2 - Total Message Hits = 14115
 Date: 2005.12.3 - Total Message Hits = 21526
 Date: 2005.12.4 - Total Message Hits = 15738
 Date: 2005.12.5 - Total Message Hits = 15926
 Date: 2005.12.6 - Total Message Hits = 19848
 Date: 2005.12.7 - Total Message Hits = 16137
 Date: 2005.12.8 - Total Message Hits = 22243
 Date: 2005.12.9 - Total Message Hits = 40917
 Date: 2005.12.10 - Total Message Hits = 35272
 Date: 2005.12.11 - Total Message Hits = 40191
 Date: 2005.12.12 - Total Message Hits = 18244
 Date: 2005.12.13 - Total Message Hits = 16867

Date: 2005.12.14 - Total Message Hits = 25739
 Date: 2005.12.15 - Total Message Hits = 17510
 Date: 2005.12.16 - Total Message Hits = 14470
 Date: 2005.12.17 - Total Message Hits = 32850
 Date: 2005.12.18 - Total Message Hits = 15186
 Date: 2005.12.19 - Total Message Hits = 15033
 Date: 2005.12.20 - Total Message Hits = 27223
 Date: 2005.12.21 - Total Message Hits = 33255
 Date: 2005.12.22 - Total Message Hits = 18400
 Date: 2005.12.23 - Total Message Hits = 13792
 Date: 2005.12.24 - Total Message Hits = 16907
 Date: 2005.12.25 - Total Message Hits = 13133
 Date: 2005.12.26 - Total Message Hits = 37705
 Date: 2005.12.27 - Total Message Hits = 67870
 Date: 2005.12.28 - Total Message Hits = 31194
 Date: 2005.12.29 - Total Message Hits = 10898
 Date: 2005.12.30 - Total Message Hits = 15687
 Date: 2005.12.31 - Total Message Hits = 17353

 729364

Daily Average = 23527

Year's Total = 5962576

The second half of Back to back, the interview with **Joe McGonagle**, follows on, on **page 68**



Stan Friedman Speaks

I used to be young
and carefree once.....



But as you can
see, this UFO
business has
taken its toll.



Sometimes, I've had to deal with
people who haven't always told
the truth.....



.....and it's made
me angry!



Still, I've always managed to
keep my dignity and my
integrity.....



.....and have never
told a lie.



I telly you girls; it's this big!!



KITTIE KLAW



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Men tend to have an image in their minds of an ideal woman and Kittie Klaw fits that composite in my brain. After all, what more can a guy ask for; a bright, highly intelligent female who's prepared to take her clothes off. It doesn't get an awful lot better than that.

Kittie is all set up for a pre-misconception but you do that at your peril. Misjudge what you're about to read beforehand and you'll be setting yourself up for a big surprise. Go into this open minded and you're still going to be bowled over. Welcome to the world of Miss Kittie Klaw.....

SM: It's been fascinating reading up about you because I think most people, looking at your own interests and your early life, and indeed, what you do now, would regard you as a pretty weird person. Would you agree with that?

KK: I don't know about weird. I think I'm maybe, in comparison to your average 23 year old, perhaps a little unusual in my interests and pursuits.

SM: What's herpetology?

KK: That's the study of snakes and reptiles.

SM: And you were into that as a child?

KK: Yes, very much. I think had there been more to the Harry potter series, I would have been very apt for a student at Hogwarth. I think I would have been a parcel mouse! I don't know if you're reading the Harry potter series?

SM: I'm afraid I'm not, no.

KK: Ah well, it's wasted on you!

SM: You're also quite bright, in the sense that in 2003 you got a degree at Glasgow in psychology. What drew you to that subject?

KK: I've always had an interest in human behaviour really. What drives people, how they're influenced by each other and how they're influenced by stimuli around them. The subconscious has always fascinated me as well as hypnosis and the unconscious from magical and occult points of view. That just naturally led into an academic study of psychology.

SM: What drives you?

KK: I think mystery really. I consider myself Gnostic and that I am seeking some kind of truth or understanding. I think that comes about by examining all the things that don't relate to you and finding out why because through that, it sheds light on things that you do relate to. It's all about getting perspective and perspective being an ever changing tool.

SM: Were you lonely when you were younger?

KK: No. I always had friends. I was surprisingly quite popular although I was never one of the trendy or popular girls in the sense of wearing make up or short skirts at 13. By the time I got to 14, I felt quite jaded with most of my peers at school, and trendy girls sickened me to be looking at them, to be honest. And the boys, well, I just didn't get their existence and so I kind of started to look at religion etc., because the more I heard pop music, the more I got depressed.

SM: Why? Why did pop music depress you?

KK: I think because it was so vacuous and meaningless and yet people were so laughing it up, that it was so important and it was a focus for so many people. It was like every morning you'd get up and be anxious about being a teenager, and put on your makeup and listen to *Take That* or something. I tried to get into all these things but found I really couldn't. It really annoyed me and I found it to be kind of misleading in a way, like there was something really false about it, that you couldn't trust it. So I became a bit suspicious of pop culture, that it had an agenda or something.

SM: That's why I asked you a few moments ago whether you were lonely when you were younger because your attitude and outlook, from quite a young age, seemed to be quite out of step with everyone else.

KK: No, I was OK. My friends just thought it was a quirk. My best friend for years at school was a girl called Katie and she was absolutely obsessed with Robbie Williams and probably still is, I don't know. Her bedroom was absolutely covered wall to wall, ceiling to floor with posters of the guy, to an almost disturbing degree, and she was really obsessed with boy bands and glitter and this kind of thing. But she thought it kind of quirky that instead of having boy bands on the wall, I had one picture that I had cut out of a magazine of Paul McKenna up on the bedroom wall above the bed. I had other things like *The Scream* and *The Mona Lisa*, just posters I had picked up from places. That was the one thing people always remarked on; why do you have a picture of Paul McKenna up on your wall? That was who intrigued me. I had a crush on the man for about a year, I think. I was pretty obsessed.

SM: Did you ever see him perform?

KK: No. I just watched his TV show and I read all his books.

SM: Out of interest, what do you think of Derren Brown?

KK: I'm a fan. One of my closest friends in *the Ministry of Burlesque*, Foxy, she's a complete Derren nut and she actually has on her website a link to "the sexiest man in the world", and it links through to his web site. I have been a fan before he got big. I tried once to track down an early book of his but it was out of print, because at that point he hadn't hit popularity yet. I can't remember what it was called but I couldn't get hold of it.



SM: I think he's got to be a very lonely guy actually.

KK: Yeah, sometimes these people isolate themselves a little bit because of what they do. According to a lot of studies that test for psychological traits etc. in an average population, psychologists and actors tend to rate well above average for psychopathy and that seems to be borne out of an ability or a necessity to disassociate from people and observe. So I think that Derren Brown as a result of what he does, he has to be a master of disassociation, to be able to watch people so closely and to be able to influence them. It's a subconscious process for him all the time now. I can't imagine him being Derren At Home, just switching off from what he does.

SM: Exactly. I share your sentiments. Somebody that can know people and can manipulate people as well as he does; it must make personal relationships very difficult.

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KK: Yes, but at the same time I'm sure he's got no end of young ladies lusting after him and if he is sitting on his own then I recommend that he does contact Foxy Rouge at Lycos.com or even Foxy@foxyrouge.com because she'd be very interested to hear from him. She'd make anyone very happy. She's a great girl.

SM: I'm very interested in your interest in the paranormal and in particular your essay on abductions which I thought was an excellent overview. You'd obviously done a lot of work because you had clearly followed through on all the references that you'd quoted. How long did that take you to write?

KK: I think about a couple of weeks, in amongst other things. I was at university and it was my first anomalous experience related essay. How it came about is a vaguely amusing story as well. I had a really acerbic tutor who was not a nice man. He was a bit of a bully and very condescending to students. All the girls thought he was a bit creepy. He had a tendency to lock the door when you were in the office,

claiming that the wind blew it open. It was all a bit suspect. He was asking us all to write our first critical review of psychological study in literature. I said to him that I wanted to do something on the paranormal, in parapsychology, and of course he dismissed this as nonsense and it was further reason for him to talk down to me because clearly I wasn't very bright to be having such an interest, despite being in the class. So he humoured me and got me to submit some ideas and I did that. I tried to submit ones that were very psychologically based, more up his area of expertise which was more at the cognitive end of things; about how people process experiences, how people process language. I decided to submit an idea on the dying experience and what people experience, and where it is suggested that there is meant to be more, and I was basing it on the Osis and Haraldsson study where they looked at the dying experience in terminally ill patients in India and America. They looked at a cross section of the culture and the demographics etc. and found there was a general pattern of people's experience of something that appeared to be supernatural.

Of course my tutor dismissed it as absolute nonsense, what has this got to do with anything? Etc. He wouldn't let me do it. He also started to claim that he knew about the study of parapsychology, that he had a lot to do with it and so therefore he knew what he was talking about. But it was obvious he really didn't and he was just couldn't stand to be in a position with someone who appeared to know something, i.e. a girl.



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I refused to do any of the really boring topics that he was suggesting but I had to do something in the end, so I thought right, last straw for him, because time is running short, so I'm going to write something that will really make him cringe to read, and I picked a topic which was probably the most media sensitive and really kind of taboo socially to talk about, and that's obviously aliens. That's the one that has the most stigma, beyond ghosts and fortune telling etc. Those are debateable but aliens don't really give you any back up. Some people find it quite frightening material and other people just find it ridiculous. I'm sure you've come across that yourself. So I thought, "Screw you. I'm going to be doing aliens now" and I just became absolutely fascinated by it. I started going through all the work of Professor Mack from Harvard. I was really blown away. I thought, "Well, whatever his critics are saying

about him, this is really interesting stuff, regardless of what they want to say about his credentials or what remarks they want to make personally about him, it's a pretty weak way of going about destroying someone's academic work." Unfortunately, academia is riddled with jealousy and in fighting and so on.

I was really fascinated by everything Mack had to say and of course, I read a load of other material and even read bits and pieces of different novels as well, including *Communion*. Of course bearing in mind it's most likely fiction but it was interesting

because a lot of the material in the alien abduction experience was culturally based and based upon what's available for people to read, what's available on television, etc.

But I found myself agreeing with Mack, that basically it was just all too weird. There were just too many consistencies for there not to be something going on. You're out with the media. It's ridiculous to think that a television programme like *The X Files* would somehow have developed some sort of national psychosis in a select sample of people. It doesn't really make any sense. If that was the case then everybody who watches *Eastenders* would be chronically depressed.

SM: But you said a moment ago, unless I misheard you, that you thought it was psychologically based.

KK: Yes. I think a lot of it is. It's got a lot of psychological components. From an academic point of view, it's clearly a psychological subject.

SM: But you don't think there's a national psychosis going on?

KK: No. I don't think there's an illness. I think it's psychologically based but I don't think it's a psychological illness. These people are suffering. It seems to me that there are a lot of cases that are indeed fantasy or a kind of delusion or some kind of trauma. I think that's highly likely. But as Mack was pointing out, there are far too many cases that don't fit the criteria for that, so it still needs an explanation and to get one, you really need to take all the cases into consideration i.e., that sleep paralysis doesn't work. It works for some cases but not in all of them. So you can't therefore say that sleep paralysis explains it because it doesn't, it only explains a certain percentage. It doesn't deal with people who weren't asleep and had their experience unless you want to suggest they are narcoleptic but then you're not likely to be narcoleptic and suffer from sleep paralysis.

SM: And of course a lot of cases occur when people are driving their cars and they don't crash their cars. They just come to an hour or so later and wonder.....

KK: It is ridiculous to think that just because someone is in bed, it must be sleep paralysis. That's really weird. There is no logic in that. I go to sleep usually every night and I think I've had incidents of sleep paralysis maybe twice in my life. I don't think that everyone who has sleep paralysis will have an alien abduction experience at the same time, and if they're saying the alien abduction experience is sleep paralysis, then surely there would be some sort of cross over. There's not and the alien abduction experience is completely different and people are left with some kind of dramatic scarring, psychologically and specific.

It's sad that so many areas of science don't want to know because people worry about their personal reputation. It's almost like how can they call themselves scientists when they're not really interested in the truth? They're not really interested in finding an explanation when there are people suffering. Regardless of whether you think it is aliens coming to you in your sleep or not, there is a genuine phenomena going on, and that really can't be denied, and where psychologists and psychiatrists are denying it, I just don't understand the justification at all. It's almost like they've got a personal agenda. Why are they in denial? Do they know something?

SM: Do you think there's any significance in the fact that the vast majority of abduction experiences are reported in the United States?

KK: Yeah, I would imagine it probably is significant but it might not just be a social thing but it might just actually be people reporting. In other cultures it might not be such a big deal to actually report it. Maybe people are more comfortable talking about it so it doesn't become a national statistic. Or maybe it's the other way round and people just don't talk about it in other cultures at all. I know that in some cultures they have always considered people visiting from another world to be a privileged, divine experience. Maybe it's just the way in which it gets reported or explained is different and it doesn't make it into the record books.

SM: You left it open at the end. As far as I recall, you didn't come to any conclusion yourself, you just presented the evidence to the reader.

KK: That was the idea. I'm not really qualified; I don't think anyone is really qualified to say what the answer is. To say, "This is aliens and this is the reason why" or "It's definitely not aliens and this is the reason why". I don't think any of us really know enough.

SM: But do you have an opinion?

KK: Yes. I think the alien hypothesis is just as likely as any of the other hypotheses and I don't really understand why people are so quick to dismiss it just because it's unusual. In relation to a lot of other anomalous experiences, it's really not that unusual.

When you look at crop circles and cattle mutilations etc, even cryptozoology to some extent, there's a lot of evidence that something on a more lateral scale is going on globally. People often complain when you ask people about crop circles and they say, "Oh, it's not aliens. If it was aliens, they would leave a big message on the White House lawn. Why not go to the President?" What in fact if they are just trying to talk to people. How else would they do it? Just turn up at their door and knock? Probably not. They're probably more likely to take them away to an environment that's safe for them. People consistently shoot themselves in the foot; "It can't be aliens because aliens don't visit people. In the alien abduction experience, it can't be aliens because there is no sign of aliens being here on earth." It's really blind sighted. It's not that the automatic conclusion that people should come to is always that it's aliens. It might as well be fairies or some other kind of entity that we don't necessarily know much about and that we have no hard proof about, so to speak, of their existence; i.e., they're not moving among us and we don't have them in zoos.

But just to dismiss the whole idea because they don't like it is completely unscientific and it just drives me nuts when parapsychologists get a hard time from people who consider themselves to be more scientifically rigid, whereas they are the ones that ignore the evidence and suggestions. It's just as likely as a lot of the other suggestions and I think that overall there is a genuine phenomenon going on. It's not going to be explained by psychiatry for one, and it's not going to be explained through a kind of social conditioning theory. There's something far more specific going on. I don't think it can even be as vague as a union idea of collective unconscious and something happening.

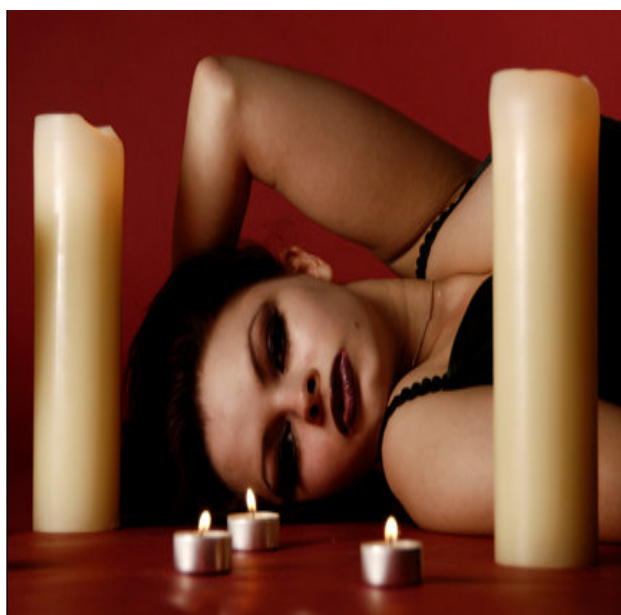
SM: You don't?

KK: I think that's so vague. I think the collective unconscious has maybe got something to do with it. Maybe that's why certain people experience what they experience or why the experience is so specific. Perhaps the experience is born out of someone drawing on different fears and anxieties, perhaps some kind of precognition in a way? I really don't know. It's as good a theory as any. But just to

say that it's like "We're all evolving psychically" – it's too vague. It's got to be something more specific. There's got to be an equation somewhere.

SM: Can you really blame people, particularly those from a scientific background; can you blame them for being frightened?

KK: Not for being frightened, no. This is the problem that in the media the words "sceptical" and "scepticism" are wholly misunderstood. It really annoys me. People are always saying, "Oh, I'm a professor of physics and I couldn't possibly believe in aliens or alien abductions. Utter nonsense. I'm definitely a sceptic." That's utter crap. You're not a sceptic. A sceptic is someone who has examined the evidence with an open mind. To decide if something does exist or to decide that something does not exist is taking exactly the same un-sceptical point of view but just at opposite ends of the spectrum. It's completely the same decision. If you decide to believe that something doesn't exist, it involves just the same faith and belief as if you decide something does exist.



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SM: You're highlighting the inconsistencies and illogicalities in many peoples thought processes. Are you guilty yourself, maybe not in this area but in other areas of your life?

KK: I'm sure, yes. It's something that humans will always have a problem with. I think if we were particularly rational or logical creatures, we probably wouldn't fight so much. There wouldn't be so many wars and people would feel they could tell each other about their traumatic experience. I

think it really is the confusion and the controversy that causes argument and debate but in the end, I guess that's what kind of drives our social evolution. People are made to think so perhaps in a way the irrational nature of man is perhaps a very useful tool because it makes us question things all the time, bearing in mind we're not just mental creatures, we're also emotional creatures and emotions aren't necessarily really related to logic.

SM: What do you think of aliens? I presume you've heard of the ETH?

KK: Yes.

SM: Where do you sit on that spectrum?

KK: It's a case of being sceptical in a positive sense in that I think it's highly plausible that there are aliens. I think that to be perfectly honest, without thinking too much about evidence or psychological issues or logic and just work on an instinct; it's far more likely that there are aliens than there aren't. To think that we are actually alone, etc etc, to coin all the clichés, it does seem really ridiculous to think that. It seems that there probably are. I've not seen an alien so I can't say I've got first hand experience and I know something, because it would be ridiculous to claim knowledge I don't have.

The most I can grasp is knowledge a priori like the way we know that one and one is two – we just grasp it. If I were to grasp the ethereal truth that aliens were real, I don't see how else I'm going to know unless I'm one of the luckier or unluckier ones as it may be to experience an abduction. But again, each person that experiences that has to battle with all the conflicting issues that say, "No, it didn't happen" or "Why did that happen?" or "Why would that happen to you? Are you sure it's not a book you've read? What were you watching on TV?" People like to take the understanding that's available to them which gives them the least psychological discomfort.

SM: I think most rational people would agree that there has to be life elsewhere, off this planet. There is almost certainly intelligent life elsewhere as well. The real issue is, has it got here? Has it been down here and had a look at us? And indeed has it interacted with us in our history? Do you feel that intelligent extraterrestrial life has at some point interacted with human beings?

KK: I would hazard a guess that in some fashion it has but it might not be physical. We always try to rationalise things, even hypothetical things like have aliens interacted with us. We always have a tendency to try and put that in a box of our own understanding i.e. to say, "Oh, if aliens have interacted with us then they must have come in a spaceship and must have done something like built pyramids or made pretty circles in the lawn. Or they must have left a message for us or given some ancient culture the cure for whatever disease or fire or something." Again I think that's a bit naive. We're harking back to Jung again. It could be more subtle than that and yet more powerful. Who's to say that intelligent life necessarily has a physical form that we would recognise? Who's to say that it's not in fact something that's completely intrinsic to our consciousness and our understanding?

There's so much debate about psychic functioning. On the one hand you've got people who just accept it as a day to day thing. In the other school you've got people who think it's a lot of nonsense and they can't imagine why anyone would believe that. To me it seems like I don't see how we would really have evolved without some sort inner extra sense and who's to say that intuition isn't influenced by a third party or doesn't have some sort of medium? I think that's as much as a plausible idea as any, I don't see why not.

To answer your question, I think yes, it's highly likely. I would be very, very surprised, if I ever do find gnosis, if aliens didn't figure in there somewhere if they haven't in fact interacted or provided something. It just seems that the way the world is going at a really fast rate that we're becoming more and more reliant on abstractions. Look at the Internet for example. We take it as it seems, that it's a physical thing, that its web sites, information, pictures, its words, it's great, it's all this stuff. But really if you think about it, it's just light. I think that's quite a frightening thought; that it's so fine tuned. To me it's an intelligent instrument and I wouldn't be surprised that in some way it has its own kind of consciousness. I would not be surprised. It's like it's aware of itself but a kind of consciousness where there are interactions going on that are actually independent of someone pressing "Send". Again, to me, I don't think that's highly unlikely and likewise, I wouldn't think if aliens were trying to communicate with us, that that's possibly the way they would do it.

Or perhaps through dreams, perhaps through meaningful coincidence, perhaps through the synchronicity that we talk about like why did we phone that person that day? What gave us that inkling, that intuition? What set up the circumstances that led to the unexpected meeting of so and so who happened to have the information you needed or whatever? It's almost like aliens aren't like these guys

that come in spaceships. It just seems to be for some reason the determined perception.

What actually if the lights we see in the sky are in fact lights? Maybe it's a form of communication in itself. Like the Internet, like in most ancient cultures the knowledge was carried on the back of Light, for want of a better term, on the backs of angels or by Ethereal Helpers or Devine Entities, Messengers from God, etc. through history, it is always documented through the different religions. In fact, that's what we're talking about, it's just that it's a new name because we want to put people in a box, we want to feel that we can get to know them, that we can feel them and get to be buds with them. People are relying less and less on religion and more and more on technology and information. It's not a surprise that we are transposing all those ideas into friendly next door neighbours.

SM: Does religion figure in your life at all?

KK: Not in the sense of organised religion. I'm quite pro disorganised religion like make your own. I'm very much a follower of Gnostic tradition and the occult. I have a lot of appreciation for Christianity and Judaism because of the Gnostic content in that. It's just unfortunate that we don't notice that it's there.

Basically I don't have a problem with any religion. In Islam there a lot of fascinating Gnostic parables but again it's a case of people choosing to look at the abstract and unfortunately people like to have something very tangible and physical because it makes it easier to think about process.

And I think maybe it's the same with the alien story. We want them to look a certain way so we know what they look like when we see them. We want them to have defined functions and we want to make up our minds whether they are the enemy or are our friends. Maybe that's why it frightens people so much; the alien abduction experience highlights the opposite. If there isn't a tangible explanation it seems to be that yes, there is a consistency in the anomalous experience but what it is we really don't know. It appears that there's a physical manifestation of some sort going on but there's also so many things that completely contradict and contravene what we know of the universe. Like the levitation, all of the alien procedures, the transportation, basically, it's too much of a mind jolt for people.

SM: Some people think that alien abductions have been going on under another name for centuries and point to people being taken away by fairies hundreds of years ago, and enduring a similar sort of experience.

KK: That kind of relates to my point about people looking for something tangible in which to relate to. It's just based on a cultural change within which we wish to perceive the phenomena.

SM: Would you still call yourself a paranormal investigator?

KK: Yes. I've not been so active lately since I moved to London. I've really been hectic with a thousand and one things. But I've been to a few places recently and I've seen some things.

SM: Within the paranormal, what specifically interested you?

KK: In a way I kind of look at it in a very broad spectrum of the same thing in that although we might be talking about ghost hunting or looking for spectral entities, who's to say that in relation for example to the alien abduction hypothesis, who's to say that, "Well, we've given this a name therefore that's what it is." That's like

really silly thinking. It's all part of anomalous experience, experience that we have that doesn't make sense of the world in which we think we know. Perhaps that's why people are so fascinated by it. Even people looking for fairies. Again I think that's as valid a cause as people looking for aliens or cryptozoology, any number of things.

But fairies are something that the public generally scoff at, thinking it was something that was disproved in the Victorian era. Well, it really wasn't. Didn't we just change it to aliens? We've branded the experience really, little things kind of changed. The ghost thing is a desperate, desperate cry to find out about life after death. The aliens and the fairies is a kind of cry to learn that we're not on our own and we're not helpless, that there's someone there to help. There's quite a lot of people accepting specific religions which I think is a positive thing because it's making people think for themselves more.



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But the average person does need a security in their life and if they don't have a lot of time every day to give thought to existentialism or different kinds of knowledge and what it means to discover something that doesn't sit with their reality and so on, then they'd probably be very happy in a church where it's all kind of condensed and prepared. And if they can accept that then it's great. I tried that when I was about 14 or 15 but unfortunately I couldn't accept it and it all went horribly wrong.

So I think many people are looking at the paranormal in lieu of that. People are definitely looking for some sort of peace and that there's something more and something to look after them.

I think the paranormal relates to all aspects of human experience but I think ghosts in particular really intrigue me. As regards to

Ufology, I have had one experience in seeing an anomalous light. I don't know if that's interesting to you?

SM: Indeed.

KK: It's not a particularly fascinating story but it did really get me thinking. I was 13 at the time and my parent's house up in Scotland backed on to a forest and on to moors. It was completely deserted and peaceful. There would often be helicopters travelling over the woods and the moors looking for escaped mental patients from the local hospital. This was a regular occurrence – the hospital never seemed to learn about security so every other day there would be a helicopter chasing someone in their pyjamas. Not a big problem. But I would often sit and look out of my window at night just because it was always really nice to see the silhouettes of the trees against the moon. It fascinated me and I would watch it for hours quite peacefully.

I remember one evening when I was just about to go to sleep and I saw a really strong light outside my window. So I thought that it was another helicopter looking for an escaped mental patient. It had a really powerful search beam scanning

through the forest quite slowly but quite steadily. It went down across this little byrne of water and over to the moors. It was coming back and forth and then suddenly something went cold in me and I just thought; "Something's not right." I opened my window and there was no sound. Absolutely no sound whatsoever. I could hear the trees rustling really, really quietly in the wind. And this search beam was going up and down in front of me but with absolutely no sound and there was nothing in the sky. It was just a search beam.

I went to bed very confused and thought nothing more of it but mentioned it to a couple of people who said it just *must* have been a helicopter. They just kept ignoring the part about the fact that there was no helicopter. I couldn't explain it and didn't think about it much for years until I met a friend called Alan Park up in Scotland who is a leading Ufologist. He's a lawyer who actually used his legal skills to investigate all the alien abductions and UFOs to debunk it and instead he ended up becoming a complete believer. He has an extraordinary library of unusual books and material and footage. I remember telling him about my experience and he said, "Actually that's not that uncommon and a lot of people have seen these things and it is a known phenomena. They are known as anomalous lights." So that got my interest in Ufology.

SM: What drew you to burlesque?

KK: I think the controversy of it. It was through Betty Page that I got familiar with it. I'm a big fan of hers, the 1950s pin up. I collected all sorts of Betty Page memorabilia, books and posters and things and I came across some film footage of her in a film called *Teaserama*. It's a 1950s strip show but done to such a degree that it was just so funny. I remember watching it with tears in my eyes from laughing because it was just so funny. There were these women from the 1950s and they were all being really sexy for this *Teaserama* show, dancing very seductively and stripping off bits of clothing and of course, they always have these massive knickers. Really massive, massive knickers on. There was an innocence to it all. There was nothing explicit or gratuitous even with their dancing. They were just tapping their toes and nodding their heads and smiling, and then maybe taking off their gloves. It was all done to really cheesy comedy music with a pink and green backdrop. Everything was just so garish. It was just brilliant. I thought, "This is what the public needs. It needs this kind of humour, this not taking itself too seriously stance." And it really will challenge people because on the one hand people will say, "No way did my granddad go to these kinds of shows" and on the other hand they will think, "This was sexy?"

It had to be done as a Betty Page impersonation and I did belly dancing also. I did performing with a local band and got a couple of friends involved in it as well and decided that we should set up officially and call ourselves *the Ministry of Burlesque*. Did that and two and a half years later I'm in London and it's a full time occupation.

SM: Burlesque is regarded as more of an art form.

KK: Yes, it's performance art. A lot of it is very avante garde but there's also a lot of traditional dance and theatre involved in it. I think what a lot of people don't realise, especially when they hire burlesque artists, is that it is actually theatre so the people will come with a lot of props, a lot of costumes, and they will need specific lightning and a stage manager. I think people get a bit confused in that it's not like a DJ or a pole dancer where they just turn up and do their thing. It's theatre.

SM: You must have inevitably ended up at various times in the past doing gigs that just haven't worked because of the audience expectation.

KK: Maybe a couple of times, especially in the early days, like I was the first person to do anything in Scotland with burlesque, in the new age. It was going on up until the 40s and 50s but it was more music hall for a while and then that died out in the 60s.

There's three clubs now in Scotland, *Vegas*, *Vaudeville* and *Club Noir*. I even started my own night club, *Vintage Varieties*, and held it in a quite well know bar. I did it with a friend called Hugh of *Hugh Reed and The Velvet Underpants*, they were his band, you would have loved them, I can tell. If you think the name's funny (I'm laughing) you would have loved them. They were completely mental. There is a web site!

I started performing with them and Hugh is into 1950s rockabilly style and the Elvis thing too so we put on this night together and it confused the hell out of so many people. But they went away with a real sense of being glad they came. It was interesting, it was unexpected, and we'd all do it again. Within a month, *Club Noir* had set up billing itself as the first burlesque club in the world. I didn't mind. At that point I went away to Edinburgh University to study Extra Sensory Perception with Bob Morris and then unfortunately, half way through my course when I was doing a Masters and PhD, he died. It was a very sudden death, unexpected by everyone, and that was that.

So my last year I couldn't really finish properly because we were half way through the experiment and there was no one else that was really qualified that could take his place. So I just thought, "You know what? Screw it. I'm off to London"

SM: I notice as well that you've taken it towards the fetish side also.

KK: To some extent. I kind of feel that burlesque and performance art needs to have a real avante garde streak, it needs to make people think. It's not really entertaining if it's the same thing again and again. I'm not a fetishist but I like the look of the fetish scene and I like the aesthetic of it. I feel that its very cutting edge in its fashion and its clubbing is also very cutting edge and I think that's quite good for people to see that on stage. They quite enjoy that as well and when I involve any fetish element in my act, it's in a comedy scenario. It tends not to be serious.

SM: So do you consider yourself in part a comedienne?

KK: Yes. I'm very much a performance artist and comedy is a big part of it. It feels important otherwise it's all a bit pretentious really. I think the ideals of burlesque are lost on many of the young, new burlesque artists. They think it's all about them all being fabulously pretty and the audience just looking at them. And I'm thinking, "Well, you could buy a poster and just stick it up." I feel it's really got to have entertainment value. It's got to be interesting; it's got to be short and punchy so that people remember it and they don't feel they've been preached to. And it's got to leave people either laughing or talking, preferably both. Otherwise it's really not entertainment. You might as well have a DJ.

SM: Just coming back to the paranormal for a moment, I'm certainly very impressed with the way you've thought through your arguments. You've obviously given this a great deal of thought.

KK: Well as I said, I've had quite a few experiences myself. I've rationalised them but not rationalised them away. I've not used the guidelines of what I know about the universe in which to understand them because the point of them being anomalous experiences is that they don't fit. So trying to use your knowledge of the world to understand it is a redundant process. It is what it is. If I can find an

explanation, fantastic. But there's no point in me trying to draw on real world knowledge because I'll end up deciding it didn't happen, as many people do.

SM: You sound like you're quite laid back waiting for an answer.



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KK: Well yes. I mentioned my interest in Gnosticism and part of the realisation is that even if the answers are here, and they probably are in some form and just might not be accessible to us at the moment – maybe they're locked away on the Internet somewhere, you never know – there's no point in destroying the fabric of the world you do know over something that doesn't fit. It's maybe not really our place to think that we know everything and that we should be able to explain everything to ourselves. Or dismiss it.

SM: Not a suitable outlook though for people that want everything nicely tied down.

KK: Those are the people that should go to church. They'd be much happier

there you know. They shouldn't go and watch scary films about ghosts or aliens and then get all upset about it. It's fiction or entertainment but if they do find it frightening, they should go and find out about it. They would feel far more reassured if they were part of a community of believers or something. They would then have a consistency in their lives.

You seemed to react when I mentioned the idea of a serial knowledge that Jung's idea of a collective unconscious is reflected on the Internet. I wonder why we can't tap into that rather than just logging on. Perhaps it's got a kind of tangible consciousness in itself. What are your thoughts on that?

SM: It's the first time I've ever thought of that and it did strike a chord. Something as large as that, possibly..... Well, the reason I was interested in that is because some people think that crop circles are as a result of a collective consciousness and that they respond and react to us.

KK: It's a good a theory as any but it's a case of, does it work? Is it parsimonious? Does it explain all the crop circles which we know are not fake? Testing out a theory of an abstraction is pretty difficult.

SM: People claim to have done that. Folk have claimed to have sat on a hill, in a field, and collectively directed their thoughts and willed a crop formation to form in that field to a specific shape and design. And they claim that it's happened and I think, although I can't give you any data about it, that there have been one or two which have been observed, scientifically observed and monitored. If that is true, it's mind blowing.

KK: Yews indeed. Jung definitely hit upon something when he talked about the collective unconscious.

SM: He could never make his mind up about UFOs though. He seemed to vacillate and go backwards and forwards on it. He can be quite confusing.

KK: Yes. I think in a way I kind of agree with him. He didn't want to come to a conclusion because again, it isn't really our place to confront something like that.

SM: Do you think that it might be culturally related?

KK: I think the minutiae of the experience are culturally related, like in the Victorian era when it tended to be fairies that abducted people and today it's more about aliens although the kind of alien has changed over the years as well in the descriptions of them.

But I don't think it's really important to focus on like what size the aliens were or what colour they were or what they were wearing. I think it's more important that it's the fundamental experience itself rather than what people basically see with their eyes. What they see with their eyes is completely influenced by what they expect to see. There's going to be an element of culture if everyone's psyche and expectations are completely wrapped up in their own culture. They've learnt to speak for example and so they're not going to suddenly change the cogenesis of their own language or their own experience of life just because scientists want all to be completely the same. But the important part should be that they were abducted by something, not how tall it was.

SM: Near Death Experiences; I know not a lot about them other than the fact that scientists tend to write them off as brain chemical reactions as the brain is dying. Is that something that you go for or is there something deeper there?

KK: Yes, I think that's a good explanation that explains a lot but it doesn't explain everything. It doesn't explain the experience that people have when they're not actually dying and they just think they are and they go through the same experience. It doesn't explain that and so to me it seems more like a psychological thing rather than a physical thing. Also, the dying experience hypothesis really works when you consider cerebral anoxia when the brain is deprived of oxygen over a period of time.

SM: Kittie – my thanks.

Kittie's web site can be found at <http://www.kittieklaw.com/>. It is an extremely interesting read that includes more of her papers on the paranormal, reams of first class photographs, her appearance schedule, more detailed biographical and career detail, and so on. You can even join Kittie's club!

WANTED; PREFERABLY ALIVE



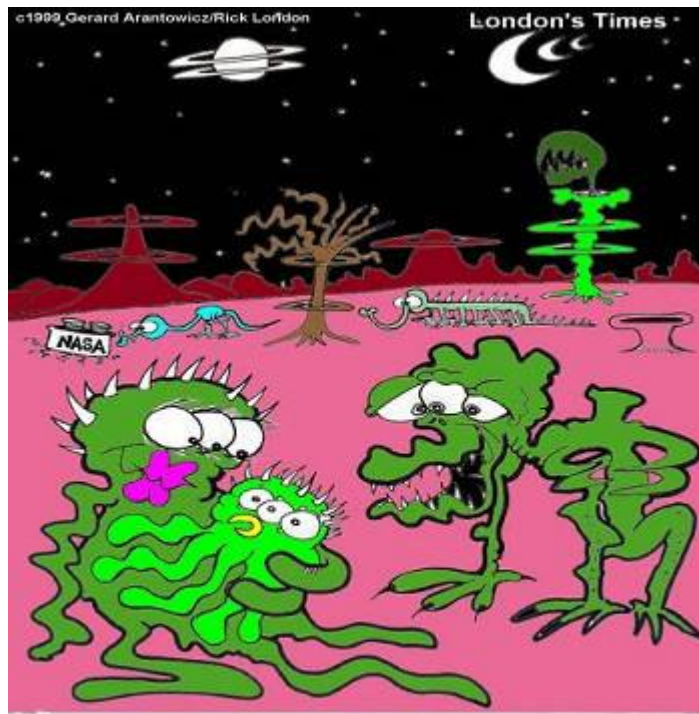
Have You Seen This Man?

A \$12,000 reward is offered for the arrest and conviction of **Mr. Rich Reynolds** for the heinous and dastardly crime of disappearing without saying goodbye. Alfred, Errol, Paul, Wendy and a collection of people affectionately known as "The Dinosaur Club" desperately want to know his whereabouts so they can shake him by the hand and wish him well.

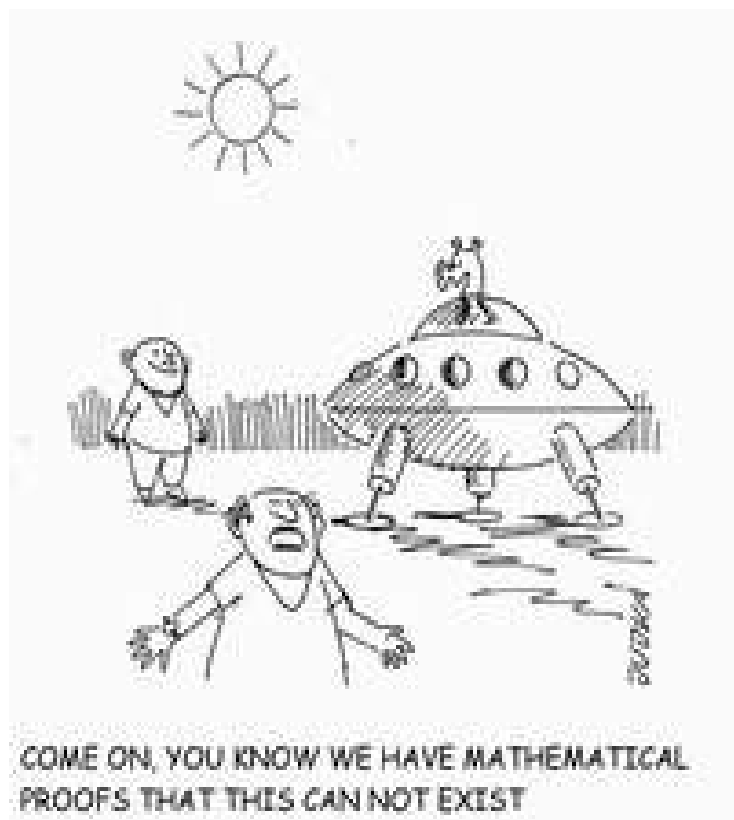
Please note; the reward will only be paid upon Mr. Reynolds' conviction and the request must be accompanied by three tokens from a Persil packet of washing powder and a \$12,000 deposit as a gesture of goodwill which will be refunded upon Mr. Reynolds' release from incarceration.

WARNING

This man is considered dangerous by the authorities and should not be approached if seen. If cornered, he is likely to make a series of allegations which might result in an FBI investigation, regardless of whether you are guilty of anything or not.



"Oh honey, he's gorgeous... good thing he has your looks!"



BACK TO BACK; PART TWO

The Joe McGonagle Interview



SM: How old are you?

JM: 45.

SM: Where were you born and brought up?

JM: I'm a Heinz 57. Born in York, lived there a year, moved to Germany – my father was in the army – moved from there to Portsmouth and from there back to Germany again. Then to Northern Ireland. Moved from there to Cheltenham and from there to near Reading and I joined the army.

SM: How old were you then?

JM: 16.

SM: Right, so in your first 16 years you really were all over the place.

JM: Yep, went to five secondary schools in five years.

SM: I take it that that made friendships a bit difficult?

JM: Yes, I suppose so.

SM: Was it inevitable that you'd follow your father into the army?

JM: No, he actually tried to persuade me not to.

SM: Did he try and direct you into any other particular direction?

JM: Yes, he directed me towards signals.

SM: Why there? Because it was away from the front line?

JM: No. Basically because the training you get there is worthwhile for when you come out. That applied to my case because it's essentially what I do now.

SM: What were you involved in if it's possible to talk about it?

JM: I did some quite interesting jobs there. The first thing there was, was 2 years and 3 months training as an apprentice. I was up in Harrogate.

SM: Did that mean Menwith Hill?

JM: Not far from there. Our training camp was on Honeypot Lane which is just two miles from Menwith Hill. The first job I got was working on a closed circuit television system. This was at 1 (BR) Corps and this was in the field, not at barracks. One 1(BR) Corp was about 50 trucks which moved every two or three days. The Corp Commander was there and all his deputies and so on and what I did was, the vehicles were meant to be NBC proofed.

SM: What does that mean?

JM: Proofed against ingresses of nuclear, biological, chemical intrusion. The thing was, they needed [to leave] them to get themselves to meetings so in the old days, you'd stick the gas mask on, get out of the vehicle and meet in a tent. With modern technology, they decided they wanted a closed circuit television system linking them together so they didn't have to leave the vehicle.

SM: And that's what you were involved in making?

JM: Well not making, running. Well not running. There were three others on the detachment and our job was to set up and operate the CCTV kit. In fact we were responsible for all the comms inside the vehicles including telephones and radios.

SM: So you would call yourself an electronics expert?

JM: No. I don't believe in the word "Expert" of any kind.

SM: Very competent then?

JM: Yes, I used to be. I was over trained for the job, which was the case in the army at the time. I believe since I've left, it's slipped a bit. But yes, at the time I was a qualified electronics and communications engineer.

SM: How long were you in the army for?

JM: Ten years, from 16.

SM: Right, let me just back track slightly. I'm aware, directly as a result of a comment you posted on my blog actually about your father's activities in the army. Your dad was in intelligence?

JM: No. Because he had a background from Northern Ireland, he got attached to a unit in Londonderry which was Intelligence gathering though he was still in the Royal Corps of Signals, but he was on attachment.

SM: And presumably he passed himself off as a local?

JM: Yes. One of the things he used to do, for instance, was go to Sinn Fein rallies and record the goings on. So here he was; a squaddie in a crowd of two or three thousand Sinn Fein supporters. Just imagine what would have happened if he'd been found out?

SM: Well, I must say Joe that there are obviously a great many memories from between 1969 to the early 90s of various atrocities and so on in Northern Ireland but one of the ones that sticks out the most in my memory was the incident of those two soldiers in a car who wandered into an IRA funeral.

JM: They were from the Royal Signals.

SM: That was one of the most brutal, disgusting and obscene things I'd ever seen.

JM: One of them was Derek Wood. I can't remember the other guy's name. But I knew Derek.

SM: So that one must have hit you really hard.

JM: I suppose so, yeah.

SM: At 26, what made you decide to come out of the army?

JM: Well I'd been in a bit of trouble. I was due for promotion to sergeant but got busted from there all the way down to signalman.

SM: Go on then; why?

JM: Mainly through drink. I was a heavy drinker. But also, and I don't know whether to put this on the record or not, but I used to get kidnapped by a gorilla.

SM: What type of gorilla? A primate type thing?

JM: Yep. With long arms and big knuckles.

SM: A real primate?

JM: No. Her name was [Chris - should be Christa]. She used to get me pissed and then pull me into a taxi and take me home. The thing was, she kept moving house as well so I never knew when I woke up in the morning where I was. So I'd roll into barracks like and get into trouble.

SM: So your discipline record was absolutely atrocious?

JM: No, it wasn't that bad, no. But the problem I had was that within a year, I had three charges. They were all for trivial things but as I said, I got busted from just approaching sergeant down to signalman.

SM: Which must be a very depressing situation because you suddenly take, what, two steps back?

JM: Yes. In another sense though it was actually quite a good experience. I think it was very character building. It stopped me drinking. Well, it didn't stop me but it did actually stop me for two or three years but it didn't stop me completely.

SM: If you don't mind me asking, because you've mentioned this to me before, drink has obviously featured fairly heavily in your life at times. Is that still the case?

JM: No, not really. I rarely drink now. For instance on New Years Eve this year I'm working. I'm not concerned about that. It doesn't bother me.

SM: So you came out of the army. At this point, was there an interest in Ufology yet?

JM: The interest had started before I had joined.

SM: Before you were 16?

JM: Yeah, I read Von Daniken in 1974'ish. I was an avid reader, mainly science fiction and historical novels. Von Daniken fell between the two really.

SM: Have you not made some rather negative comments about Von Daniken recently?

JM: Oh yeah. But at that time I accepted what was written in there word for word.

SM: Do you think his theories hold any water now at all?

JM: No, none of them. I can't think of any. I think the ancient astronaut theory is out the window.

SM: What about the Nazca lines?

JM: That's one of the things that when I picked up on it, I realised he was a flake. When I got onto the Internet in 1999, I went chasing around for anything that confirmed his book and one of the first things I came across were the Nazca lines. I read one or two different explanations though I wasn't totally convinced by one, but none of them had anything to do with astronauts.

SM: What did you do when you left the army?

SM: I did a short conversion course. My skills in the army were ostensibly in radio, not ordinary radio but trunk radio communications which equates to a micro wave engineer. There weren't any vacancies at the time in that area so I did a three month conversion course on computers. Because of my communications background and my familiarity with computers, I got a job in the telecoms department of the bank's automated clearing service, which are the people that process direct debits for all the banks.

SM: Was that in London?

JM: Yes.

SM: So you had to live down there?

JM: Yes.

SM: So how long did that one last?

JM: Till about 1990 I think. Certainly 3 or 4 years.

SM: How did you end up in Stoke?

JM: I was working in Bradford for a company called The National Provincial Building Society. They got taken over by Abbey National and although I was actually quite safe in my role there, I didn't like the way they ran things. So I started looking around for another job and as I had been working in the finance industry, I wanted to break out into the communications industry and I was fortunate enough to land a job in Stoke for ICL. That's how I finished up down here.

SM: How long have you lived there?

JM: Now you're asking. I've lived in this house for about 5 years.

SM: Do you concur with a survey from some years ago that alleged that Stoke was the worst place you could live in, in the UK?

JM: It depends on how you look at it. Stoke city centre is horrible.

SM: Actually I thought that was the only bright spot. When you say Stoke, what do you mean by Stoke city centre?

JM: That's right, as there's actually five towns. But there is a Stoke on Trent city centre which is just a concrete jungle. But the main shopping centre is actually Hanley and that's not a lot better either. But the people round here are really friendly, the pubs are good when I occasionally go to them, and housing's very cheap.

SM: Yesssssss. I'm only kidding. Stoke is the butt end of a number of jokes.

JM: The other thing that struck me was that it's fairly central in the country. I'm not far from Liverpool, Birmingham or Manchester so if anything goes wrong with the job I'm in, I'm well positioned to take something in one of those three places.

For other things as well like the TNA (National Archives) I'm a lot closer from Stoke than I was in Bradford for instance.

SM: When did you start taking an active part in Ufology?

JM: That would be in 1999 when I got on the Internet.

SM: What happened then?

JM: Well like I said, one of the first things I did was to try to check on a lot of Von Daniken stuff. Although I'd read a lot of his books, I didn't remember much about what was in them, but I did remember the Nazca lines. What I did find when I was looking for UFO stuff was that nearly everything was US centric and it was in 1999, in September I think, when Chris Whitlock posted a post up on a news group asking

if anyone was interested in forming or contributing to a UK centric site. I suggested that we create a mail list and he maintain the web site and that's how UfologyUK started off.

SM: When you talk about a web site.....

JM: To me, the mail list is a separate entity from the web site.

SM: So if you look at ufologyinuk archives for example, that's the web site?

JM: No, that's part of the mail list. The web site was Ufology.org.uk and that's Chris' web site.

SM: Is that still in existence?

JM: The name is still owned by him, I'm not quite sure why to be honest, but the web site itself is no longer there.

SM: Why do you think ufologyinuk has become the leading UK message board?

JM: Firstly I'm not sure I'd put it as the leading one, I just think it's the only one. I don't know if there are any more.

SM: Well you might have a point as it happens because these things tend to come and go and if they don't attract a membership reasonably quickly, they tend to sort of disappear.

JM: Or diversify into non UK stuff. There are some certainly with the name "UK" in them and I've had a look at them and there's been hardly any UK content.

SM: Why do you think you've seen off the competition?

JM: I think part of it is that there are clear guide lines as to what is allowed to be posted, about what sort of behaviour is expected and there's policy, the List policy. It's not rigidly enforced but it's certainly encouraged and at times enforced. I think that is really what has caused this List to last as long. They know, and if they don't know they soon find out, what the rules are and if they don't like the rules, they soon go away.

SM: So do you think the fact that there are established rules actually draws people in?

JM: I think it helps people to stay. What I've seen with other lists, well take a list like Errol's where every single post is moderated all the time. What's happened with other lists is that they go quiet for a period and then it gets dominated by people what I call spamming the list with very loosely relevant nonsense, and because the policy is in place, that can't happen with UfologyUK.

SM: Right, so in affect what you're saying is, the average visitor wouldn't come across rubbish per se.

JM: There's a few knock on effects from that. One is, you're not getting a mailbox full of rubbish, some people might think you are but it's coherent rubbish if it is rubbish, but also it's kept fairly focussed on UK Ufology so if your interest is UK Ufology, you're not getting bombarded continuously with "I saw a light over Nebraska", or that kind of thing.

SM: You've mentioned before that you're too busy with UK Ufology to focus on American stuff, but do you not feel that in restricting yourself in that manner that maybe stuff passes you by?

JM: Maybe, but I'm not eliminating all aspects US Ufology. What I'm saying is that anything from the U.S. that has a speculative relationship to the UK.....well take Roswell. If Roswell is true, then that was the model crash disc scenario so that probably set the model for future ones, including the UK. The Betty and Barney Hill abduction was the first one where regressive hypnosis was used and again, that would be a viable topic for discussion in that context.

SM: The fact that hypnosis was used there or the fact that.....

JM: The case as a whole because it was the first where hypnotic regression was used, the whole case is up for discussion.

SM: Even though it's American?

JM: Even though it's American, because of that technique which has had so much impact on the rest of Ufology worldwide.

SM: But it's now a discredited policy by and large.

JM: In my view it is. There are still some supporters in the UK. Mind you, before I'd even be happy using it or advocating using it, I'd want to be a trained psychologist. I'd need to fully understand what I was doing. I've read a few books by I think Alan Baker? He died recently. He was a psychologist. He wrote a few books, a lot of which touched on the use of hypnotic regression. Unfortunately I've lent them to someone so I can't tell you the titles.

SM: You'll never get that back.

JM: My girlfriend has got them so.....! One of the things he goes into is how memory works. Although hypnosis isn't really understood fully, they've made a lot of inroads into how memory generally works and he managed to show how hypnosis can interfere with the working of memory.

SM: As opposed to enhancing it?

JM: Yes. It appeared to enhance it but it's the old garbage in, garbage out scenario. One thing for instance is that if you see something that's totally bizarre or if you only see a part of something, your mind will try and recreate the remainder of it. And that's as good a memory as being what it was, even though you could only see a part of it.

SM: Is that strictly true because if I saw.....for example, I mentioned this to you but two years ago, I saw lights in the sky. Now OK, I made an assumption about what they were, well I couldn't guess the height other than the fact that they were extremely high up, but if I was asked to make a formal report, I would simply state what I saw, and where I was offering an opinion as opposed to fact, I would clarify that and say, "That is an opinion". I concluded as it happens that it was probably American military craft going back home from Iraq. Now I don't know that.

JM: Well what you've done is rationalised it and come to a conclusion based on the most probable answer.

SM: Yes, but I would also acknowledge straight away that I don't know that.

JM: In nearly all the cases that are put down as having some explanation, in a lot of them there is the element of doubt because the answer is based on probability not on certainty. But coming back to hypnosis, imagine turning over a corner of a page in a book with a photograph on the page behind it, and you only see a part of the image and the rest of it is hidden. The brain will try and fill in the rest of it. It may not succeed but it will try and do it. So you might turn it over and it might be a football. But the brain does try and fill in the gaps.

One thing that happens under hypnosis I think is that that is one of the particular things that are switched on. So if a hypnotist is saying, "What did you see?" your brain tries to find an explanation for what it was you saw.

SM: Have you yourself ever been hypnotised?

JM: No.

SM: How can you be sure how the brain works under hypnosis?

JM: I can't. Again, they are making inroads into that but they're still not absolutely sure how it works. This is based on memory and how it works and when you're doing hypnotic regression, you generally try to bring memories to the surface.

SM: We started down this track because we were talking about Betty and Barney Hill and prior to that, American Ufology. Do you think you have a typically moderate sceptical view of American Ufology, which is that it's wild, it's mad, it's extreme and frequently devoid of any common sense?

JM: I think American Ufology probably has more extremes than we have in the UK – extremely good and extremely bad.

SM: Do you think that's a reflection of national characteristics?

JM: Yes. It probably is, yes. As I say, the good parts are very, very good and the bad parts are very, very bad. There is a lump in the middle but they tend not to get noticed so much.

SM: Have there been any memorable incidents on UfologyUK? Particular postings that stick in the mind or events that have occurred?

JM: To be honest, nothing surprises me on it. I expect the odd raid by the CSETI camp, but it doesn't last very long.

SM: Who are you referring to there?

JM: For instance, UKFFD (Disclosure party). There are definitely people on there who have been absolutely deluded. There was a Russian guy who believed that rocks were sentient.

SM: That's funny. I thought they were! Presumably he didn't last very long.

JM: To be honest, I expect these things to happen from time to time. It seems to happen primarily towards the end of July. I don't know why.

SM: Well it's the silly season, isn't it!

JM: But also you get people like Tim Matthews for instance who came on once. I don't know if it was an attempt to disrupt it but his actions had a disruptive affect on the List. And again, I just had to hit it on the head.

SM: What did he do?

JM: I can barely remember now but it was a very aggressive posting.

SM: Did you kick him off?

JM: Yes.

SM: And as far as you're aware, he's not back on?

JM: That's one of the problems of the List. Once you have ejected someone, you can't be sure they don't re-register under a false name. I know that has happened on occasions.

SM: Yes, we were talking about one particular individual the other day.

JM: In a sense that doesn't really matter because either they moderate their input so they don't get kicked off again and need another ID or else as soon as they put another post on the List it's obvious who they are. Even if I can't prove it, I'll know who it is. And if they behave the same way they did before, they get banned again.

SM: Has anybody beaten Chris Parr's record?

JM: Probably not.

SM: What a twat. Actually, I won't tell you who but somebody made an enquiry to me a few days ago from America about the Caldebeck incident. I told him straight away that it was a hoax and I told him who was behind it. After I sent the email, I just thought I'd do a bit of digging and came across a post, actually on UFO UpDates from, and this was about a year and a half ago, a certain individual who's also registered under that name on UfologyUK. I hadn't realised that it had been going on that long.

JM: I've been trying to get to the bottom of that incident for sometime.

SM: What, of Caldebeck?

JM: Not the incident itself but from where it stemmed from, the origin of it. I've had conflicting statements. I think Sharon Larkin was had up. I think she knows that now.

SM: And we know by whom as well.

JM: I've got suspicions but that's all it is.

SM: No, I think I know who. It's fairly obvious actually. All because of Graham Birdsall.

JM: Yeah. A naming names zone here. There are names I don't mind naming at a personal level and there are names I don't mind naming publicly either but that's because I have the evidentiary proof. In this particular case I don't which is why I don't particularly want to name a name.

SM: I don't think he'd mind actually.

JM: Well it could be wrong as well. That's the other aspect of that – it's not a certainty.

SM: Well, as you've mentioned naming names, for the reader who won't be aware of what's been going on, I should recap that this has been an issue on UfologyUK lately in that somebody, Oh, believe it or not, we keep coming back to the same name, don't we. Well, a certain individual, oh bugger it, Chris Parr submitted a posting to UfologyUK which claimed.....actually, just to digress for a minute, I think what happens with Chris is that his brain races ahead of his mouth. He thinks something through and then basically writes out his conclusions in an email and the rest of us are left wandering how he got to that when it's perfectly rational and logical to him.

JM: In this particular case though, this Nazism in British Ufology, he did it deliberately to draw somebody out and he apologised for this on List.

SM: Do you know who that person was that he was trying to draw out?



There's not much to do in Stoke so Joe has to use his imagination on weekends to relieve the boredom.

JM: No, not a clue. I'm not sure who the other person was because he was influenced by somebody else to do this. Someone suggested it to him.

SM: Chris?

JM: Yes. And he followed the suggestion without thinking really. Personally I don't have a big issue with that. Someone actually joined in with him at the time who is anonymous. That to me is the worst offence, if you like. At least we knew who Chris Parr was. This other person joined in with innocuous comments.

SM: Anyway, to continue the scenario, Chris's comments drew the attention of Andy Roberts amongst one or two others who objected to the fact that unnamed

people were being referred to without their names being mentioned and Andy thought this was wrong; if people were going to be accused of something, they ought to be named, which in principle would be a positive move.

JM: Generally I'd agree with that. But there are times when we're on dodgy legal grounds for trying to name a name or there's other reasons why you might not want to name that name. I'm trying to think of an example.....

SM: Oh, I accept, and indeed you have pointed out yourself on, I think, at least two occasions in the debate that ensued about examples of where it wouldn't be appropriate to name somebody, and of course we had the example of Judith Jafaar's email as well. But just to fill in the gaps for people reading this, Andy suggested that we have a vote to change List policy so that people could not come on and make these blanket accusations without naming people. The vote was carried and then, was it you that then suggested another vote to overturn this because of the problems that the first vote had caused?

JM: Actually I think it was Robert Rosamund. In the run up to the first poll, there was hardly any discussion about it. When it got carried through.....

SM: Now hold on. There was discussion about it but that discussion was coming from one source, virtually.

JM: Right, yes. But when it did get carried through, people started objecting and it occurred to me that people who should have been voting in the first place didn't actually take part in the vote.

SM: Oh yes, I mean how many votes were there? Thirty maybe?

JM: Ah, yeah, well we'll come to that later maybe.

SM: Out of a List membership of 1200?

JM: It's less than that. About 1100.

SM: Well that says something. So there was this virulent campaign by Andy with some support. You're quite right – with very little said against it, and it was staring people in the face every time they turned their computers on.

JM: That's right. Now within the policy there are thresholds that have to be met normally to pass a policy vote. Based on the fact that there are only about 30 regular posters on the List, the rest are silent membership, and in this case it appeared that 21 out of those regular 30 had decided to vote, I waived those threshold levels, even though it was against my own personal desire. And that's what probably caught out those who didn't take part in the vote. They probably thought it wouldn't reach the threshold and get adopted.

SM: I know I definitely voted in the second vote and I'm fairly sure I voted the first time as well, against, obviously.

JM: On that first vote, about 5% of the membership took part.

SM: But this did put you in a very difficult position. Actually, it was a very difficult time generally. First, there was a massive increase in the volume of emails and as I recall, the emotional temperature on the List went up through the roof a little bit, which is not necessarily a bad thing because it's exciting.

JM: As long as it's kept really polite, I think it is quite productive as well. People get to see the different views and even if there are two people arguing who don't agree at the end of it, other people can make their own judgement on which position they favour.

SM: In discussing this, we did bring up a very interesting point which is that it is an extremely small percentage of List members that actually contribute. Firstly, why do you think that is and secondly, what do you think of those silent members?

JM: I think it's probably true of every List. I've no idea how many people are on UFO Updates but you'll probably find there's a hard core of 50 posters on UpDates, I would guess. On UFONet, another List I'm a member of, there's times you might get a dozen people posting and at other times it's only 3 or 4.

SM: I can't remember a dozen people posting simultaneously on UFONet.

JM: They have been more active in the past. The membership is fairly stable, about 750. I think if there were tighter controls on content, it would be a lot higher.

SM: OK, we've established that what goes on on UfologyUK is probably common on other Lists as well. Why do you think that is?

JM: Two things; I think a lot of people just have a curiosity and they haven't got the time or the inclination to do any of their own research.

SM: Now hold on Joe; you don't need to do research to be able to contribute to a List. You need to have an opinion.

JM: Yes, that's right, but that's part of the problem. Opinions are unsupported and they get challenged.

SM: Ahhh, now, right, you're now coming into an area where I suspect one of the answers to this question might be, namely that people are intimidated from coming on.

JM: Yes. I think "intimidated" might be a bit strong but they're wary because they know that if they put something up there, if they can't support it then they may look foolish at the end of it. Which to me is probably the way it should be. On the other hand, it doesn't explain why UFONet is like that because challenges are very few and far between on there.

SM: Yes, that's true so that's probably one of the answers but not all of it. OK, if you're right, and I see no reason why you shouldn't be, then that doesn't say much about Ufology anywhere really, let alone in the UK, because it means that for example, belief is paramount and that people recognise that and probably it also means that people haven't thought their arguments or their ideas through or thoroughly enough.

JM: I think that's generally true. A lot of the propounders of the ETH in the UK haven't really rationalised it or really thought it through or are able to show why they think that. Now someone did suggest, I can't remember if this was off List or on List, that this was due to a lack of intelligence, which I dispute. It's not due to a lack of intelligence. I think it may have something to do with psychological make up if you like, but that's Society and I think that's changed in the last 20 years. People are more out and out for a quick fix but don't want to do the hard work; they want someone else to do it for them and I think that's a Society issue where I think it's prevalent throughout over a great number of topics.

SM: And there are those who have come into the subject, have done the research, haven't got answers.....

JM: You can count me in on that.

SM: Yes, but then have left.

JM: Yes, that's right, which is a sad thing really. A lot of very hard working people have left over the years for a number of reasons. I suppose the most common one would be that they don't see any point in doing it anymore because in their opinion, there's nothing more to it. It's all mistaken identity or it's all explainable.

SM: That's bollocks.

JM: A lot of people do actually reach that conclusion, and I can understand why. The other thing is, a lot of people do come in thinking they have the answers already; they know that the government's covering things up, they know that there are aliens in the basement in Whitehall. And when they actually scratch away at the surface of that, they find out that it's not true and that disillusions them then.

SM: Yes, but I'm talking about serious researchers!

JM: Some of those people have actually done some research to reach those conclusions. They've had to.

SM: I think in one way it bears out part of your argument in that you don't think it's a lack of intelligence but at the same time I think it also bears out your argument that it's a transient Society and that people want instant answers; the point being that even "intelligent" people still seem to want quick answers and what they'll do is just rationalise it if they can't find them by saying, "There's nothing to it". I'm not sure that's an honest answer to be truthful.

JM: I'm not sure either but the thing is, that's very hard to disprove. Certainly there are a lot of things to it but certainly, there is no single answer to what causes even the unexplained UFOs. I think the answers' going to be more than one.

SM: I think you're right. The one thing I've managed to work out is that the deeper and deeper and further and further I've got into this, is that yeah, the answer just gets further and further away.

JM: There's a huge element of psychology in Ufology, ranging from things like hypnosis, how memory works, group dynamics, there's loads of aspects of psychology involved in it and not everyone can be a psychologist. I've read up a few little bits on it, for example body language, but because there are so many aspects to Ufology, it's that that keeps me interested in it. It would be great if there was a UFO crash in Stoke on Trent tonight. I'd be the first in the queue to go down and look at it. But that isn't happening anymore. We're not getting those sorts of cases. In the meantime, we have to do something. I think part of it is, in my case for instance researching the history, that's actually producing a lot of benefits for me because I'm actually starting to understand more of why things are like they are and why there's been no progress or limited progress in the past.

SM: Well why do you think there's been limited progress?

JM: There's a couple of reasons. One is, New Ageism has been drawn into Ufology or vice versa and people haven't been focussing on the task which is to try to identify what these flying objects are.

SM: Well, I regard New Ageism as just a diversion. It doesn't divert anybody seriously interested in Ufology. It diverts people who, in another time, would have gone to church but now, in the noughties, church doesn't fulfil that need so they turn to Ufology.

JM: There's some element of that. There is a religious overtone if you like within Ufology. I'm not talking about the outright religious groups like The Aetherius Society but a more sublime element if you like.

SM: There is but I have to say though that I wouldn't dismiss that completely. As a serious Ufologist for want of a better description, I know that's anathema to you.

JM: The problem with it is that it needs to be separated out from Ufology. The reason is, because of the involvement of people who think they can meditate and talk to aliens or whatever, it's actually putting off people taking part who could otherwise contribute.

SM: Two points; firstly can I just clarify. I was particularly thinking of the sort of situation that you described just now.....

JM: There is a wider element and it was an extreme that I chose.

SM: Yes, but there's much more of a spiritual element to our lives these days although it's not intrusive, and I think a lot of people take a much kinder attitude towards other people and a more understanding attitude. And it extends from that and it might not necessarily include Ufology per se but it's hovering on the fringes.

But the other point I'd make is that I'd be very disappointed if I met someone who was put off from coming into Ufology because he happened to see an email from the likes of the kind of person you've been corresponding with recently on UFONet – is it Michael? Because that to me is like making a choice or a decision not based on enough information. If that is their assessment of what Ufology is then they obviously haven't looked around the subject far enough or deep enough.

JM: The problem is the things that are easy to find on the Internet and the media about Ufology presents a really cranky image. And people who are maybe of a scientific bent, who could really contribute and might even have an interest, are completely put off by those sorts of things. Because if they're really busy, the last thing they want to do is pile through ten tons of shit to get to the gramme of useful information that's in there.

SM: So those that are "serious" want instant answers as well.

JM: No, they don't but they want coherent research available to them that they can then analyse rather than the incoherent mess that we've got.

SM: I find myself disagreeing with you slightly here. It's very much a judgement, this. You say that easy stuff to access on the Internet about Ufology that leaps out at you is cranky.

JM: Maybe not but a lot of it's not relevant. A lot of it makes jumps of logic; "These lights can't be identified therefore they must be flying saucers from Mars". That is sort of religious in a way. It's faith based – "We can't identify it so it must be aliens."

SM: I've not read that Joe. I've not read somebody say, "We don't know what this is so therefore it must be....." I have read, "It could be....."

JM: The problem I've got is that there is a presence from Roswell. That's probably a good example. Rendlesham Forest is more relevant in this case.

SM: Joe, can I just stop you for a moment. I have just gone into Google and just keyed in "UFO". Right, top of the list, National UFO Reporting Centre.

JM: God, have you seen the stuff on there?

SM: Well, they have a reputation and a positive one. UFO Evidence, UFO Folklore.....

JM: This is one of the problems. All they do is collect UFO reports. They don't analyse them, they don't investigate them.

SM: Well people can't do everything.

JM: What's happening is, all the UFO reports are being made and no one is investigating any of them.

SM: There's too many.

JM: That's one of the problems. Another problem is, and funnily enough Nick Pope pointed it out in your interview with him, there is no place where you can go to in the UK that is a known reference point for reporting UFOs other than the MOD, and I can tell you a few stories about that as well.

SM: Go on then.

JM: A certain member of the civil service who keeps banging on about the government UFO project.....

SM: Which ends up in a series of utterly, utterly god for sakenly boring emails on UfologyUK about the syntax and capitalization of the word "Project". Jesus Christ, that's not Ufology. (Andy Roberts trying to ridicule Pope-Ed)

JM: No it's not. I agree with you there. But there is a higher point behind it. Now this enterprising member of the civil service (EMOTCS) is presenting an image of some fantastic department in the MOD of which he is the chief of, investigating and researching UFOs. That is definitely not the case and never has been.

SM: Well I think we're creeping here into the Clarke/Roberts syndrome.

JM: There is a point here. That point is; what do the MOD do?

SM: I understand that it's a serious point but you've just made reference to that interview, one by the way behind which there is a story.....

JM: Yes, and it was a very valid point that Nick Pope made.

SM: But in it, he does describe part of his job and it's quite mundane. He certainly doesn't attach any glamour to it at all.

JM: Let's just look at what they actually do. A UFO report comes in through some RAF station somewhere that a member of the public has reported. It goes on to a standard form which has got 13 entries on it. The desk officer comes in on a Monday, and that's another point – we're talking about one person, not a big team, not a big project, one man – he looks through the reports that have come in, "Oh,

that looks like an airplane". Ticks "airplane". That feels like a balloon, ticks "balloon". That one seems a bit more interesting, I'll do a radar check on it. So he rings someone up and is told there is nothing on radar and concludes that that UK airspace has not been compromised. It's a mockery; it's not an investigation or research.

SM: But Joe, you just said to me that you've read that interview. In it he states that they've got, certainly now, no time left for investigation because of the FOIA. We can't have it both ways. In the main, we argue that Nick's desk was simply the public shop window but that the real serious stuff, when there was something of interest going on, bypassed him and went to the Provost and Security Services then, or somewhere else now.

JM: I'm not entirely convinced of that. Certainly there's an aspect of that going on, and evidence of that is going to come through shortly. But I don't think it was something running continuously parallel to Nick's role.

SM: I'm sure you're right. I think it would just have been the more interesting stuff.

JM: Even allowing for some shady department in the background picking out the juicy ones, there have been very few instances where anybody from the MOD has gone to visit a witness. I can probably count them on both hands from the last 30 years.

SM: That we know of.

JM: Now when you're investigating a UFO report, it's vital that you speak to the witness face to face and that you visit the location where the sighting took place, and the conditions that it was seen in. Now without that, that is not an investigation.

SM: So what are you saying? There's a number of things that one can interpret from that. That a long time ago the MOD made a decision that there is nothing to this UFO business.....

JM: That's exactly right.

SM: Well, nothing to it or nothing they could do about it?

JM: Nothing that came under their responsibility.

SM: So lights in the sky, behaving in a manner that does not appear to comply with conventional aircraft and not in the designated zones as Nick Pope referred to them, where they fly their black stuff, is of no defence significance to the MOD?

JM: Generally speaking. A good example again is Rendlesham Forest. You've got a massive double airbase in the south of England, supposedly with a nuclear weapons facility although I've never seen that confirmed anywhere; the facilities were there but I seriously doubt there were any weapons there though that's by the by. Two NATO airbases which would be used in a mobilisation.

SM: I'm curious why you doubt there would be any nuclear weapons there. It was a perfect launching point for Eastern Europe.

JM: Yes. I have a few reasons. One is that security arrangements weren't, which I know existed in Germany, weren't in situ there. I can't go into too much detail

publicly but the installations I had to guard, we weren't told what was in it and right next to it was another installation which had a big sign saying "Rocket Motor Site". I'm very familiar with the security rings there and they aren't anything like the security arrangements that are described down at Rendlesham Forest.

It might have been in the military's interest to contrive that there were weapons there. Another possibility for that is that in event of mobilisation, it might be used as a storage and forward point for nuclear hardware. They would have needed the facilities there to cope with that. Or it might have been a diversionary base so that if an aircraft got into trouble while carrying nuclear weapons, it could land there where they could off load the weapons and put them in a secure area. But it doesn't necessarily mean that there were weapons there.

Aside from that, the point about Rendlesham Forest is, it is a very sensitive site, and I don't think they didn't even interviewed the leading officer involved, Charles Halt.

SM: Until the second night.

JM: The MOD never interviewed him.

SM: Yeah, but wasn't there this confusion about exactly who's jurisdiction this was?

JM: Not really, no. The one part that's really puzzled me is to why it took Halt two weeks to put a report in.

SM: I'm sorry to say, you haven't read that interview very well. He was waiting for the coordinating officer to come back from Christmas leave.

JM: Everyone will have someone covering their role when they're away on holiday. They had the phone number of the air force operations room and they could have just reported it in there.

SM: Fair point.

JM: So to me there's no excuse about what happened. They should be duty bound to report that even if they're in a different country.

SM: So do you think that even now, Halt is lying?

JM: I just don't understand the actions that he didn't take.

SM: Well he got a good promotion.

JM: That was probably due anyway. He'd been in the role for 3 or 4 years, hadn't he.

SM: We started on this thread by talking initially about membership and why it's only a small minority that take part. Do you resent that?

JM: I used to. But now I've got a better understanding of why that is. There's another problem as well. Because, although there's 1100 members registered, it's impossible to tell from that how many actually read the posts. They may have come there just to look for one specific thing, registered as web only, and left. So although nominally there's 1150 members I think registered on there, of them I'd say there's probably only 500 that read the posts.

SM: That's still a lot of people Joe. OK. Moving on to a more general question, what do you think of the state of British Ufology now?

JM: It is no different now from 1950.

SM: But are there not less idiots in it?

JM: A lot more, if anything. I think there are some very big differences actually. But talking about mail lists, there was a publication called *Saucer Forum* which came out towards the end of the 50s and early 60s run by a chap called David Jones from Cheltenham. That was the precursor to email lists. People used to write letters to him, he'd copy them up on to a list and circulate the list with all the letters on it. It was a stone-age email list. I've been in touch with him and he's a really nice guy. I think he's actually contributed quite a lot to Ufology himself although he's not very well known and I've got copies of all those *Saucer Forums* and I've got permission to publish them, which I shall be doing when I get a chance. Now reading through them, you've got people like George Adamski contributing towards it but when you read through it, you can see there's very little difference to Ufology then compared to now.

SM: In terms of thinking?

JM: In terms of thinking, in terms of organisation, in terms of all sorts of things.

SM: Yes. It was obvious to me when I read Druffel's biography on James McDonald in terms of thinking, nothing's changed. In other words, we're no further along in terms of considering the options to the way they were 30 or 40 years ago. So yes, in that sense, you are right.

JM: But there's also still bitchiness going on as well. Adamski was a case in point. He had a lot of supporters and a lot of detractors.

SM: Okay, moving on, I know you have something you want to talk about; you have a vision for the future.

JM: What is really needed is a combination of things. We've got a problem today where someone sees a UFO, they report it to the MOD and they're just going to sit on their arse and do nothing about it, or they'll go through the motions. Or the individual can report it to NUFOR in the States or Brian Vike in Canada and they're going to add them to the list of reports and not do anything about it. If they're lucky and report it to BUFORA and BUFORA happen to have an investigator in their area, then they might investigate it. The problem is, there is no where for them to report a UFO to and expect to have it investigated and I think that's one of the things that's been lacking. BUFORA at one point was the place but over the years its lost membership and lost investigators and so on, so it could not possibly provide national coverage as it stands. There's a void there and something needs to be put in there.

SM: Do you think that the present BUFORA regime is making any efforts in that direction?

JM: I think they are definitely trying to improve the situation. It's a very difficult thing to do. I don't want to get into the details but there's reasons why they haven't got a lot of support from some of the more mature Ufologists in the UK. I can't see a way of overcoming that problem. But there are things that I've been discussing with them off list which may set them back on the right course again, I think.

SM: But were you thinking along the lines of setting up something else?

JM: Yes. What we do need is a central point of focus for UK Ufology. Somewhere that the press, the public, the MOD will recognise as the point of contact for British Ufology and currently there isn't one. There hasn't ever really been one and BUFORA is the nearest thing we've ever had, but they never quite fulfilled that role. I'm not really sure why to be honest.

SM: Do you think there is the enthusiasm for what you want?

JM: No, not yet.

SM: And do you think you can get past the age old problem of nobody being able to agree?

JM: I think so. Now this is one of the quick fix situations - there is no quick fix. It's got to be a long term view taken and I think one of the early things that can be done is set standards. Now you can't impose standards on people but what you have to do is establish standards, make them widely available and pray that the majority will take them up. A good place to start in Ufology I think is in training. One very good thing that BUFORA is doing is that they're actually putting their investigator's training course on line. In discussion off List with them I've come up with some ideas, not all my own ideas, of how the existing training can be improved. I don't think BUFORA's big enough to handle that on its own. I think it will need a collaborative effort to actually upgrade its training package and get enough contributors to actually write a new course. And that actual act of collaboration would be a step forward, if it comes off. Now it might not come off and perhaps I'm sabotaging it by discussing it with you, I don't know.

SM: I don't follow the logic there.

JM: Well I don't know if it has been discussed internally within BUFORA yet. This collaborative effort can't be achieved immediately and a way of achieving it is to establish standards and make them freely available and hope that people take them up. Once that's done and if people are eventually singing from the same hymn sheet, then I think will be the time to actually form a coalition.

SM: With?

JM: With any entity that's investigating UFOs in the UK.

SM: What do you think your chances of success in achieving your goal are?

JM: It depends on how long I have to live! I think it's realistic, maybe in ten years, but it is a long term view and not a quick fix.

SM: I think that's a realistic and impressive estimation because you're prepared to be patient, to give it time and while you might like a quick fix, you recognise that one isn't going to happen.

JM: I think when people realise the potential we have, things will be a lot better. If journalists didn't have to get in touch with the local witch doctor to find out what's going on in Ufology, or if the MOD had an available route for information where we could help them decide what to release, that would be worthwhile but it can't be done at the moment because there is no single representative in the form of a group. There's no reference point. There is no interface between the MOD and British Ufology as a whole.

Another advantage of it is in relation to standards. At the moment, anyone can get a business card and write "Ufologist" on it and say they're a Ufologist. They might be very enthusiastic and even very good. But if they haven't done any training, there's going to be massive gaps in their knowledge which they can't use. So what we need is a very basic standard with a minimal level of knowledge that people have to achieve in order to call themselves a Ufologist, or to be recognised as one. And that doesn't exist at the moment.

SM: Yes, but even if we achieve your goal of a set of standards, of a training format and so on, that's not going to be recognised by law which means that people can still print up their business cards and call themselves Ufologists.

JM: I don't know. How do other fields of interest actually become recognised? I think the first thing they probably do is establish standards. It doesn't matter to me how low that standard is. It could be extremely low. Personally, I'm set against hypnotic regression but if the lowest standard achievable included the use of hypnotic regression, I honestly don't care. Because once you've got a standard in place, no matter how low, it can be improved on. If there's nothing there to start with, you can't improve on it.

SM: I think that this discussion we're having now is a positive step for the idea you have, and I'll tell you why. What little has leaked out about this previously has appeared, superficially at least, to be elitist. Almost as if, there's only a little group of us that can do this and we'll get together and set the standards and we'll control British Ufology. You've been lacking in PR to be honest.

JM: That is an issue but even so, no matter how good the PR is, there will still be people who don't want to take part. I think that ten years is a realistic target to get something in place. It may not be my ideal but it could be a starting point and a place to build on.

SM: If I was in BUFORA now listening to this, I'd be getting very nervy because I think my reaction would be, with every point you've made, BUFORA does this or it does that, why do you need another organisation?

JM: I think you'll find there's a change in BUFORA's perspective now. I think they've come to accept that they aren't as big as they used to be and they simply cannot cope with a national investigation effort as they stand and they have to do something to actually try and change that.

SM: Do you think Robert Rosamund is a positive choice as Chairman?

JM: Certainly I think he's got the potential. I've seen people come and go, even in the short time I've been involved and it comes down to whether someone like Robert is going to stick at it.

SM: Do you have any doubts that he will?

JM: You can never judge. There have been people who have come in and done some marvellous work in 3 or 4 months and then got cheesed off with it because they've hit a brick wall and given up. There is the potential for that to happen but, and I'm not in BUFORA so I can't really comment about what's going on inside there, but I think the realisation that the past days are gone must be evident now. I don't think there's any alternative view they can take.

SM: Well surely if they were being realistic Joe, they would have come to that realisation years ago.

JM: I think they have but yes, I agree. I think the rest of the world thinks its going through a bad patch and that it will sort itself out. In a lot of cases it does happen but in this case it could have been terminal. I think now they are trying to salvage the situation and actually improve things.

SM: Do you see the future as positive or flat?

JM: Gradually positive. It's going to improve in very small steps. I can foresee a time when there is a national organisation with the ability to respond to UFO reports with the public recognition that that's the organisation to go to. That's what we need though and that's the only option that's going to solve the problem, that's going to identify what UFOs are.

SM: So you think that in organising ourselves, we'll actually come to an answer?

JM: Yes.

SM: I think that's very optimistic.

JM: I don't think so, no. If you have a collaborative atmosphere where everyone is working towards the same thing instead of pulling in different directions, progress will certainly be quicker.

SM: Let's jump ten years ahead and assume that this organisation is up and running and running along the lines you would like to see it being run on. I think what will happen is that sightings will be reported more frequently and more thoroughly, that people claiming they are victims of abductions will be treated more sympathetically and more professionally, but my feeling is that we won't necessarily end up with the answers. We'll just be more professionally organised, which is not a bad thing.

JM: One of the problems now, looking at it historically, is that individual groups have used different forms; they have different levels of skill and different training. There's been no uniformity anywhere. So a scientist, going to analyse the results - where does he start? There's nothing consistent.

SM: I think that's a red herring. I think any scientist worth his salt will dig around. Anybody that's got a genuine interest.....

JM: They also have to have a life long enough, and they haven't. There's so much to find there, you just wouldn't believe. It is extremely time consuming. I don't know how many hours I've put in but between myself and a few others, we've put man years in labour just trying to find missing documents.

SM: And the expense as well, but I'm understating it if I describe Ufology as a hobby. It's more than that, it's a passion but that's what one does when one has something like that in one's life.

JM: Actually it does equate well as a hobby as there's the same sort of investment of time that someone might put into sailing for example.

SM: It sounds almost as if you're moaning about the amount of time it takes up but surely that's the pleasure of it.

JM: No it's not. I'd love it if everyone used the same formats for instance. A lot of stuff for example has gone missing over the years. There was a case of somebody who died and Ufology didn't even realise it, or it's not generally well known. David

Rees died in 1997 and I'd been asking around and a lot of people told me he was still alive. It took me a year to find out he was dead.

SM: We've had the recent example of the death of the American Ufologist Bob Pratt and the efforts some were making after his death, perhaps a little hastily, to capture the work that he'd done.

JM: In a sense I understand the reasons for that but it has to be done delicately. I know of at least two cases where very good collections have gone straight into the skip.

SM: I guess one needs to write that sort of thing into one's will.

JM: Again, if there was a central reference point, the family would know where to donate it to.

SM: I don't know how widely you've discussed your ideas but have you come across any opposition?

JM: I've had people take the view that they don't want to be a part of it.

SM: On what basis? That they prefer to be alone?

JM: Yes. They don't see any need for it. I can sympathise to some extent. Part of it though may be apathy, just thinking that it isn't possible to do. That's not my view. I think it is possible and it will happen.

SM: I think it can happen with enough goodwill but I do worry about this well known inability amongst Ufologists to even agree on what time of day it is.

JM: That is definitely a problem but once the things in place and freely available, and people start singing from the same hymn sheet initially, then we can form a choir.

SM: How do you think you're going to achieve your goal?

JM: There's a few aspects to that. One is to try and promote the best aspects on List for instance. When I see an investigation that's really good, I'll praise it. If I see one that's abysmal, I'll tear it down. But that is a step towards setting standards. It's also important that a good training syllabus is established and that should be a collaborative thing. I've got no expertise in psychology or astronomy for example so we need astronomers and psychologists on board with it. Trying to persuade them to get involved in something Ufological may not be easy.

SM: Bearing in mind this is a back to back interview with Errol from Updates, what do you think of Updates?

JM: I think it's excellent. I think Errol has done a very good job but it's very different from UfologyUK. I'm not quite sure why Errol insists on using a hand cranked mail list because it does create a lot of work for him, and he's certainly put the effort in, there's no doubt about that. And as a result, it's good. But I just don't know how he finds the time to do it to be honest. I use a standard package from Smart groups which does a lot of the work for me. There are a few things I need to do from time to time, like remind people about formatting emails and so on. Errol takes a different stance on that – he just rejects them! Ultimately I do as well. If someone's persistent, I just reject the posts, place them on moderation and reject any posts that don't meet the requirement. The thing about formatting, it doesn't

seem very important but if you're looking at a daily digest and someone is looking at reams of text in there from other posts, it's very difficult to read through.

SM: You've half excused yourself by saying that it doesn't seem very important but I must admit that a few years ago, I thought it was fussy and over particular. For a long time now I have appreciated the point. If nothing else, it's easier on the eye and easier to read. And I think it presents the subject in a more serious manner as well.

JM: I think another reason why UfologyUK is successful is that although there are lapses from time to time, generally speaking people do post in an appropriate format. I've been guilty myself of forgetting to snip. It happens.

SM: You've put people on moderation almost instantly for poor snipage.

JM: Not almost instantly.

SM: It seemed like that.

JM: I can't think of any case where they haven't had a warning first.

SM: Joe, we are gradually coming to the end. Is there anything else you'd care to mention?

JM: I do think Rendlesham needs to be looked at from the point of view of what went wrong with it in terms of investigation, particularly by the MOD. If they'd even talked with Charles Halt by telephone they could have sorted out the date problem. They didn't even do that. And that's the level of interest I think that the MOD has.

SM: So besides being a totally irritating subject for them because of all the calls they get from lunatics, namely us, they also, even without that or because of that, despise the subject.

JM: An EMOTCS elevated a particular group of sightings to the notice of his boss and there's an interesting comment on the reply that came down the chain; "I think you'd better leave this alone now" or words to that affect.

SM: Well that's open to interpretation. Leave it alone because you're wasting your time, it's nothing, or leave it alone because you're encroaching into areas we'd rather you didn't.

JM: The way I read it was, "You're opening up a bag of worms here. We don't want to get involved any further."

SM: Well that's interesting. I don't see that as dismissive.

JM: I think they were just basically saying, "You've spent enough time on it. Stop it. We're going to get dragged in further than we want to go"

SM: Could the MOD be in for a big surprise one day? I'm thinking in terms of something that might happen.

JM: Potentially they could, yes. If it turns out these are alien invaders, God forbid, I think they'll be caught completely unprepared for it.

SM: Any reasonable thinking government has contingency plans for national emergencies. Do you think, lurking somewhere at the bottom of a Home Office file or desk draw, there is a contingency plan for an alien invasion?

JM: No, not specifically. I think there might be a general one for invasion but it won't be specifically geared towards alien invasion. I'm fairly sure about that based on my own experience. When I was on exercise in the army, we'd practise the contingency for a Russian invasion.

SM: I must be honest, I've looked and made enquiries at national and local level and I've drawn a blank.

JM: I think these plans are linked to the Cold War scenario of nuclear devastation. Those plans exist and are probably in the public domain now and not classified. But that sort of thing is what they'd implement if there was an invasion from space.

In conclusion, I just want to add that I think the role the MOD plays is very much over emphasised, according to an EMOTCS.

SM: They are, in the end, the bottom line though. They are at least the keeper of the official records.

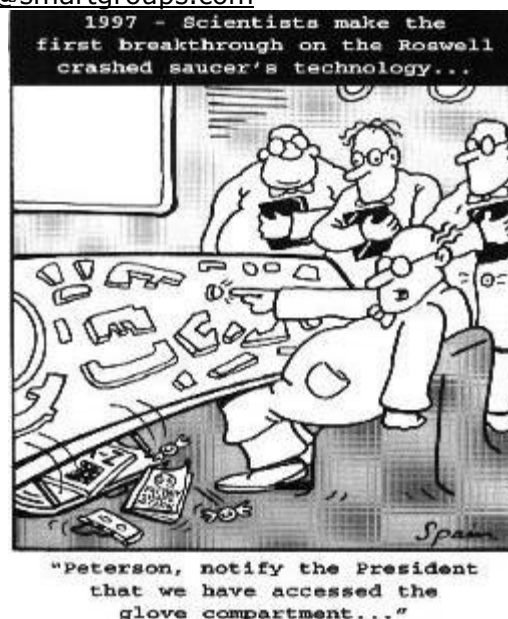
JM: I think it's very important to understand though that the person doing that role consistently has only spent about 25% of their time doing anything with UFOs. So you're talking about 10 hours a week. What could they possibly do in 10 hours a week? That is actually an acknowledged figure produced by an EMOTCS.

SM: We could increase that ourselves just by getting our MP to ask questions.

JM: That's one route to go but what needs to be done is to put together a number of pages which demonstrate a lack of interest. One of them would be Rendlesham, definitely. Had they really been taking care of defence interests in relation to this phenomena or just paying lip service to it? But you'd need concrete examples to take to your MP.

SM: Joe, my thanks.

If you would like to join the List that Joe moderates, email here: ufologyinuk-subscribe@smartgroups.com



The UFO Review Biggest Pile Of Ufological Crap In 2005 Awards

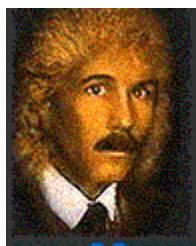


#1.

The number one spot for sheer consistency during 2005 and for that matter, 2004 as well, must go to the **India Daily**. Churning out apparent Ufological stories about four times a week and in a Peter Sellers mockery of Asian English, it has hit the high spot time and again for just being out and out garbage. And we love it – although I never actually read the stuff even though I feature it in my news page.



#2. Radio presenter **Jeff Rense** hits the number two spot simply because he looks like a poodle. I was going to ask if Jeff knew it was nearly 2006 and that people hadn't been wearing their hair in a mullet style for about fifteen years but the only problem is that it is now, slowly, coming back into fashion. A truly sad bastard.



#3. **Royce J Myers 1II** because anyone who takes the moral high ground and assumes the mantle of Grand Inquisitor and Denouncer of All must have an ego the size of the freaking bloody moon. Thanks Royce because we're all too dumb to work things out for ourselves.

#4. **Jim Hickman** hits the number four spot for running *Skywatch* into the ground and for making a complete and utter idiot of himself. It was truly embarrassing to watch.



Jim H

#5. **Prophet Yahweh**

He's here because he's a twerp but I have to say I rather like him. He brings a certain pizzazz and showmanship to an otherwise dull subject and either he's got some extremely clever set up working with a pal or otherwise something very odd is going on for him. Either way, I hope they give him a TV series.



#6. **Chris Parr** takes the number six spot for magnificently wasting everyone's time during the course of 2005. The man is an artist; a piss artist it must be said but an artist nevertheless.



Of course there was a bloody UFO crash at Caldebeck. Sharon says so, so it must be true.

Christmastime UFO sightings in the UK

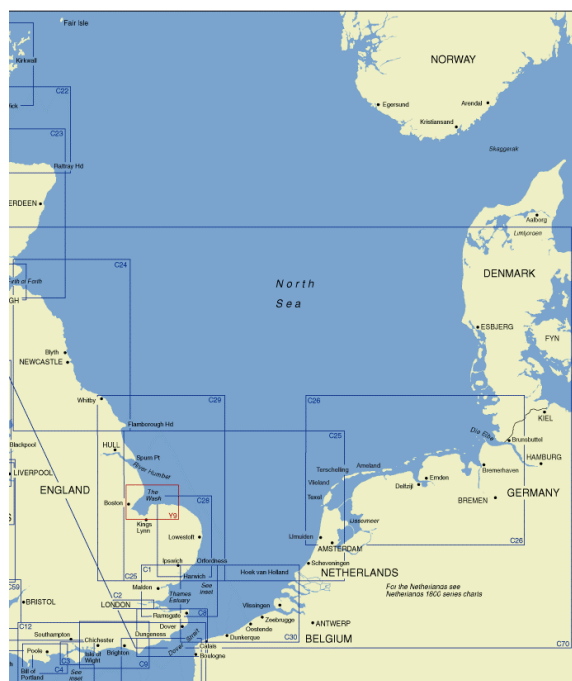
Christmas and New Year is always a busy time for people, including those of us who write for, and read, UFO Review. So here's a short article that takes a quick look at just a few of the UFO sightings that have been seen in the UK around this time of year. And, before you read on in the hopes of finding mention of Rendlesham I haven't included it because it's such a huge case that it deserves an article all of its own. But I'm not going to do one, and will have to leave you to Google for it if you don't already have a folder full of Rendlesham links!!!

One of the earliest documented sightings was way back in 1387 and, according to a link at the BUFORA website, it occurred during November and December. The description given is of a fire in the sky that was shaped like a blazing rotating wheel. The very short details can be found here:

http://www.bufora.org.uk/archive/UFOs_behind_veil.htm

But let's really begin in the Modern Era with a report from 1952. Richard Hall copyrighted an article entitled: "*Extraterrestrial Psychology*," back in 1988, that has a list of tables detailing UFO sightings. In 1952 he catalogues a major wave between June and December over the North Sea, some of which were observed during NATO manoeuvres. You can find the table at this link:

<http://www.nicap.dabsol.co.uk/ncp-hall2.htm>



North Sea

Picture Credit: <http://sailingbooks.co.uk/images/ImrayNSea.gif>

A decade later, or at least sometime during the 1960s, there was what appeared to be a "Mass Sighting" in Furness, Cumbria. Late one December night, from their bedroom window, a gentleman and his wife saw a UFO hovering over the rooftops. The sighting only lasted about one minute but they talked about it for the whole of the night, having previously been highly sceptical of the existence of UFOs. The gentleman tried to report it to the local press on the following day, but only to be laughed at, after which he didn't even mention it to his work colleagues. So imagine his surprise that evening to see the story, together with many other reports of people having seen it, on the front page of his local newspaper. A contact address was also printed and he wrote to it without expecting to receive any reply.

Two weeks later a titled gentleman turned up on his doorstep, and the witness invited him in. After much discussion and investigation, including measurements being taken, it seems that the UFO may have been as large as a football pitch. He was also asked to make a drawing of what he'd seen and, having done so, it seemed to tally almost exactly with twelve other such sketches done by those who had witnessed the UFO. The titled investigator later returned to interview the witness's wife, accompanied by his own wife, and another whole night was spent in conversation. Unfortunately the witness can only remember the last name of this person, the surname of whom was O'Brien. Was there, is there, a titled gentleman by this name? I don't know, but the couple sent the witness a Christmas card for years afterwards. You can read the full story here:

<http://www.nwemail.co.uk/unknown/viewarticle.aspx?id=283869>

Probably one of the strangest events to come out of the 1960s was what happened at Warminster, Wiltshire, and I won't rehash the whole of the story here. But Steve Dewey, in his online Chapter 2 of *"The Start of Things"* tells it as he remembers it from his childhood in Warminster, and from how it was told in the books of Arthur Shuttlewood.

In it he mentions Arthur Shuttlewood's book: *"The Warminster Mystery"* and notes that Shuttlewood believed Warminster to be important because it was: *"the focal point or node of some Earth encompassing navigational grid."* And that was the reason that Shuttlewood couldn't understand why the UFOs suddenly seemed to stop visiting the area. Of course Shuttlewood had started out as a sceptic, but he became convinced that UFOs were real. His books covered most of the different aspects of the phenomenon, as it appeared to be at that time, although it's worth pointing out that most of his alien contact was by telephone! When the events were taking place it was a topic of national attention by the media, and yet today it's little talked of, and perhaps even little known about. But many of today's modern UFO investigation methods come from the lessons learned back then.

Steve Dewey gives some very good insights into what really happened in the case. And the reason I've included it is because the origin of the Warminster case came from Christmas Day 1964 when strange sounds were heard in the area. These weird noises were thought to be coming from something that became dubbed "The Thing." According to Shuttlewood it seems to have begun when a lady reported hearing a very odd commotion on her roof at 01:25 am that day. A few hours later, and about 4 miles away, more than thirty soldiers were woken up by loud, and inexplicable, noises. Around 06:00 am a lady on her way to the early church service heard what she described as a menacing sound, adding that the air seemed to be vibrating. She was made to feel numb from a force pummelling her head, neck, and shoulders. The postmaster, who lived near by, corroborated the noises, although their descriptions of what they had heard differ, and they did not physically affect the postmaster. By the following summer Shuttlewood had claimed that there had been almost fifty witnesses to the sound, and he also disparaged any idea that they may have been due to some type of poltergeist activity. But, eventually, the noises stopped and the UFO sightings began to appear. These included fireball reports of the sort that we know today as probably being due to meteorites.

Later in his article Steve Dewey relates some of the sightings that Shuttlewood wrote about. However, he warns us that: *"I merely point out that Shuttlewood's reports could be vague, confusing, even misleading."* And he concludes by saying: *"For those interested in ufology, the Warminster mystery is an essentially 1960s phenomenon. Apart from the unusual sounds, it provided nothing that had not been described for earlier UFO sightings, both in Britain and the US. What marked Warminster out in particular was the sheer number of sightings, as well as the fact that a whole town seemed to be enmeshed in the phenomenon. What was also*

unusual, perhaps, was that the phenomenon had one prime focus, through which all information flowed. Shuttlewood's position as a respected local journalist helped focus attention on the Thing. It was to Shuttlewood that many of the reports of UFO sightings were made, and it was through him that these sightings were articulated for the public"

You can read his online version here:

<http://www.stevedewey.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/ufo/warm1.htm>



Christ Church

Picture Credit:

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gallery/church/warminster_picF0034.jpg

In the May/June 1997 issue of the UK UFO Magazine, under the heading of *"Confrontations in the North Atlantic, NATO 1993,"* Tony Dodd wrote an article entitled: *"Engaging Unknown Underwater Craft."* He reports that during the Autumn and Winter of 1970, and the Spring of 1971, the *"Western Alliance became increasingly concerned at a spate of incidents involving UFOs over the north Atlantic Ocean and the eastern coastline of Britain. As a result, a highly secret operation was instigated to try to get to the bottom of the mystery once and for all."*

During this operation, codenamed Aeneid, some UFO sightings took place that included one, during daylight hours, off the coast of Lincolnshire. The case involved a UFO 180 feet long, with a number of glass-like ball-shaped objects in attendance. The event lasted for quite a few hours, during which time the objects hovered over an RAF bombing range at Donna Nook, and was seen by at least half a dozen airmen.

In his article Tony Dodd described many other UFO sightings that took place during the operation, including one very intriguing incident where the pilot lost his life, although his body was never found. He also relates a report of what happened on 20th/23rd and 24th December 1992 when, on the 20th, a UFO was tracked entering the sea off the east coast of Iceland. On the 22nd fishermen off the northeast coast observed a *"very large, very fast, "moving underwater craft" which displayed flashing coloured lights."* These objects had also been seen being escorted by a

glowing object travelling south towards the coast of Scotland. The fishermen's nets were damaged, and they maintained that the underwater objects were definitely not submarines. On the 23rd Dodd tells us that: *"an Icelandic Coast Guard vessel and two gunboats were ordered to take up station off Langeness, an area where UFOs had been seen entering the water. The operation was conducted in great secrecy and I was told the crews felt very uneasy. Their role was to observe and report. A short time later, three American warships took up station in the area and were eventually joined by a fleet of NATO warships, including some from Britain. A simple check with newspapers in the week leading up to Christmas of that year will reveal the gathering was described as a military exercise. Few bothered to appreciate that it was extremely strange and unusual for a massive NATO naval exercise to take place so close to Christmas."*

And the following day, on 24th Dodd continues by saying that: *"the crews of two British 'Hunter Killer' submarines were recalled from Christmas leave. HMS Endurance and HMS Warrior put to sea to link up with the NATO surface fleet. At the same time, Icelandic Coast Guard vessels and gunboats were ordered to take up station at Alice Fjord off the east coast of Iceland. British newspapers then put out a story that surface ships had entered the area to track a very large underwater craft, believed to be one of a new generation of Russian submarines. I then received further information from contacts that a further four UFOs had been seen to descend and enter the same area of sea. Icelandic sources also confirmed that the entire operation was linked to tracking "unknown underwater alien craft."*

At the same time a big search and rescue effort was taking place to find a ship that appeared to have gone missing but, even after several days, nothing was found. This search was undertaken in immense secrecy. Two weeks later, on 12th January 1993, the weather seriously deteriorated badly, and remained so for the next three weeks. In fact it was so dreadful that only large ships could remain at sea, with all smaller vessels having to take shelter. When the weather improved, and all ships could put back to sea, the operation continued, but this wasn't the end of the strange UFO events.

According to Tony Dodd's article very strange things were happening right up until the time it was written in 1997. And, if you're interested, you can read the rest of it here:

<http://www.stop-chemtrails.com/atlantic.html>

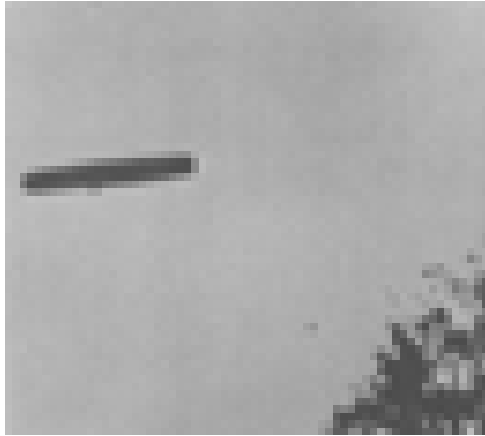
This next report you won't find online because it's my own sighting that took place in late November/early December 1973. My husband was driving us along the main road, the A4, from Hungerford to Newbury. The time was either late morning/early afternoon, and the weather was cold, dry, and overcast.

Living so near Greenham Common, both of us were quite used to the the many different types of aircraft that often flew over the area. Suddenly my husband drew my attention to something in the sky, over the fields to our right. At first we thought it was a plane because it was shiny and metallic looking, but we couldn't see a tail or wings of any sort. The nearest description I can give is of a cigar. It kept pace with us, or we kept pace with it, for about 6 miles, there being hardly any traffic on this long straight stretch of road. Eventually, we went up a hill and into a built up area where it was no longer in our line of sight. We didn't hear any noise at all, but this may have been because our windows were closed, due to the cold. At the time we both thought it might be a UFO, this to the extent that it convinced my husband who, until that sighting, had been a confirmed sceptic.

I suppose it's possible that the road we were on ran in line with the flightpath into GreenhamCommon Airbase, but we'd never seen planes come in on that trajectory

before. And we'd never seen planes fly so low over a populated area, even when the cloudbase was so low. Years later we saw massive American C17s fly low into the airbase over a built-up area, but that was a case of the flightpath having been there long before the town had spread out underneath it.

As for our personal sighting, did we report it? No, we didn't know who to report it to. And, did we ever find an explanation? Again, no, we never did. But the memory is as clear in mind now, thirty-two years later, as on the day it happened.



Cigar shaped UFO

Picture Credit: http://elastral.iespana.es/elastral/ufo/cigar_ufo.gif

In early December 1988, during an evening coach trip to a work's party, a couple of the passengers saw what they described as being an upside-down cone shape. It was seen from Sheffield Parkway, above a large tree covered hill, and was describe as being a bright neon-yellow colour. Pressing their faces to the coach windows, and shutting out the light, the object was not believed to be a light reflection. It appeared to be twisting, as though not only moving but also turning, and it disappeared within about a minute. However, it was also described as seeming to have columns of white lights around it, slowly twinkling in sequence. So was it perhaps a reflection from some Christmas decorations? The full report can be found here:

<http://www.mysterymag.com/yourexperiences/?page=article&subID=107&artID=428>



Parkway

Picture Credit:

<http://www.heritagewoodsonline.co.uk/map/015/Sheffield%20Parkway%20web.jpg>

Just under ten years later, from Llandoverry, in Wales, there was a report that on 19th December 1997 a UFO was seen in the early morning over a hydroelectric dam

in the Black Mountains. It was spotted by two Forestry Commission employees, however they were not working together but were, in fact, about five miles apart, although they were in radio contact with each other. The UFO was described as being a ball of light with four glittering tails, and was thought to be about two miles high and three times the size of a large star. Then, after about half a minute it shot upwards and was lost to view. The very short report can be found here:

<http://www.cwd.co.uk/alien-uk/index.htm>

Two years after that, on 29th December 1999, came a report from a couple driving through Swaledale, North Yorkshire, one evening. They were unaware of any other traffic and thus had their headlights on full beam. Suddenly, about 100 feet in front of them, they saw a grey trapezoidal object around 20 feet long and 6 to 10 feet high. It shot across the road, just above ground level, at a speed that seemed to be 100 mph. No real features could be seen, although it resembled a flat plane tilted away from their viewpoint, with both ends sloping in at the top. The whole event happened so quickly that at first the driver thought it might have been a low-flying jet, although no sound was heard. Both occupants in the car saw the object, but the passenger thought that perhaps it had been smaller, and closer, than the driver believed. You can read their story here:

http://www.apra.org.uk/ufo_uk_yorks.htm



Swaledale Picture Credit:

<http://www.yorkalpineclub.org.uk/tripreports/2004/swaledale/photos/005.jpg>

From the same website there is another report from December 1999, this time on the 13th of the month, in Swindon, Wiltshire. However, this was a daylight sighting by a gentleman on his way to work. According to APRA he described what he'd seen thus: *"..... he noticed a bright white light in the sky, almost like a torch beam. This then changed into a shape of blue/white lights, which was very similar to the object seen by the combined APRA/SUFOG skywatch team, while at Avebury on 1st August 1999. This time the object changed course by 90°, and then "just went out". Interestingly, this course, and disappearance, would have been over the Avebury area!"*

And also on that website comes a report from Wanborough, Wiltshire, on 19th December 2002 in which the APRA co-ordinator had an early morning encounter. He was outside at 06:30 am when he saw a very bright blue/white light in the shape of a cigar, only fatter. It gave off a red/orangey tail around 200 yards behind it, and was travelling in a totally straight line. The observer adds that it wasn't a meteor as he saw that the tail was completely circular.

You can read both of the above reports here:

http://www.apra.org.uk/ufo_uk_wilts.htm

Finally from the APRA website there is a report from M4 Hammersmith flyover, London, that happened on 28th December 2000 during a very cold, but perfectly clear, day. The object seen was described as being diamond-shaped, light on the top and dark underneath. However, it didn't appear to be a plane, or a balloon and, after approximately another couple of miles, the witness reported that it still seemed to be the same size, and remained in the same place as when he had first seen it. This particular report can be found here:

http://www.apra.org.uk/ufo_uk_london.htm

Also just after Christmas 2000 a sighting took place in Wooten Bassett, just outside Swindon, Wiltshire. It comes from a taxi driver who was working very early one morning. Although still dark the weather was crystal clear, with little artificial light around. While killing time waiting for a fare, the driver looked out of the taxi window to try and see the International Space Station passing over and saw a very bright star near the moon. Getting out of the car for a better look the driver's attention was caught by another object that seemed to be bright lights.

The first object appeared to have a searchlight, and the witness thought it might be from a plane coming in to land. However, the searchlight was pointing down towards the ground, instead of straight ahead, and it seemed to be coming right towards the driver. As it closed in it became apparent that it was a cigar shaped object, and another object was then seen flying behind it, a little to its right-hand side. This one was shaped like a golf ball and glowed red. When first observed they appeared to be low in the sky, but when right overhead they seemed to about 5,000 feet high, and they had also slowed down.

At that point the cigar shaped object apparently divided in half, then into three, and finally into four, with all four objects maintaining a cigar shape. This gave the impression that they were escorting the red golf ball shaped UFO. When all were in place the cigar shapes began to send out a light sequence, and then started to leave without changing course. The witness tried to communicate with them on a telepathic basis; asking them to return. At which point they did change course and began to turn. By this time the witness had stopped trying to contact them, and they all left. You can read the whole of the report here:

<http://www.cwd.co.uk/alien-uk/index.htm>

From the next link come two more December reports. The first occurred in Chatham, Kent on 10th December 2001. It is very brief and merely states that, sometime between 02:00 and 04:00 am, two night workers had seen strange balls of light traversing the sky together with a craft that appeared to be out of control.

The second report, almost as brief, took place on 23rd December 2001 in Livingston, Scotland. The observer saw a flashing light high up in a clear sky, on a frosty day, and thought it might have been a plane. However, it didn't seem to be moving, and it changed colour from red to blue to white. The witness also saw three white lights in a triangular shape that were moving closer to the flashing light. And then these disappeared leaving only the original object.

You can read both of these reports here:

<http://www.cwd.co.uk/alien-uk/index.htm>

Again from Scotland, and also on 23rd December 2001, but this time in Edinburgh, came a report that, during the night, two hours of images had been captured on a Digicom camera. Apparently the footage unmistakably showed three gigantic Mother-ships stationed over the estuary. One was said to be between a half to one

mile long, elliptical, curved at the front, and with the front ending in three large headlights. It was also stated that one of the ships had lots of windows, and different layers, and disgorged shiny pod shaped ships, or beings, glowing white. The report continued in similar vein for a few more sentences but, personally, I'm afraid I'm not convinced! However if you'd like to read it you can find it here: <http://ufoinfo.com/ufonewsuk/v01/0110.shtml>

In addition, the same page publishes a report from Ipswich, Suffolk, which happened on Christmas Day 2001. Around midnight a couple, who wished to remain anonymous, saw a very bright light from their bedroom window. The lady of the house thought it was, perhaps, a star, although there was no moon to be seen, but the light seemed to actually be shining into their room. She then fell asleep only to be woken a few minutes later by her husband, who told her the light was flashing and emitting a blue hue. This blue colour seemed to be coming from the base of the object, which seemed to be oval, with two diagonal protuberances on each side towards the base. The husband thought it was smaller than the moon, but larger than a star. After ten minutes spent watching it the object disappeared from the skyline.

Two days later, on 29th December 2001, an event took place in Wytham, Oxfordshire. It seems that a lady was driving along a country road, on that morning, when she saw a UFO. It had a triangular shape with a light at each corner. The object hovered above a wood, and remained in the same position for about four minutes, but no sound could be heard. The lady added that it was about 200 feet above the trees and dark in colour.

You can read those two reports here:
<http://ufoinfo.com/ufonewsuk/v01/0110.shtml>



Wytham

Picture Credit: <http://nolimits.nmw.ac.uk/IEN/Images/w980506.jpg>

Back on the APRA pages there is a report from 22nd December 2003 that took place in Wheatley, Oxfordshire. Two people had parked their car on a dark country road when it developed engine problems, and were waiting to be rescued. The sky was clear, with just a few high clouds, and the stars were bright. Around 03:00 am they noticed three yellow/white lights about 4,000 feet high, in the shape of a triangle. Two were horizontal while the third was at the object's apex, and the lights remained motionless for at least three quarters of an hour. The witness who reported this incident also added that they'd been in RAF for twelve years and seen many different types of aircraft flying at night, including those from NATO

countries. And they didn't believe that what they'd seen was either an aircraft or a weather balloon. You can read their story here:

http://www.apra.org.uk/ufo_uk_oxon.htm

Between Autumn and Christmas 2003 numerous UFO sightings were reported from Cumbria. These were mostly described as being of large orange balls that glowed in the sky, before shooting away. And, late in 2002, a delivery driver had seen one of these orange light balls ostensibly following him early one morning. After a little way the ball sped up and veered off. It seems that Cumbria is quite a UFO hotspot. And you can find not only a few more reports, but also some possible explanations for them, here:

<http://www.timesandstar.co.uk/theunexplained/ts,cumbrianufos.static>

This next case has no date, although the BBC interview was probably done not more than a couple of years ago. The interviewee was Tony James, a UFO investigator, and he was asked what his most baffling case was. He replied that it was possibly an event that had happened over Bonsall Moor, Derbyshire, at least ten years previously that was highly intriguing. It seems that a family, who had hired a cottage for the Christmas holidays, were packing to return home before dawn on 31st December. They saw a bright light on the horizon that was flying around erratically, and it then flew straight at their cottage. It came to a halt, at treetop level, right above the witness. The man got his family to join him outside, and they were scared of the large, strange, object silently hovering above them. Tony continued by saying that: *"After a few minutes, this craft seemed to turn itself inside out (changing shape) to make a triangular shaped craft, without making a sound. The family was petrified and ran inside, except for the husband, who was amazed. The craft moved off at walking pace, again without making a sound and the husband followed. After about 100 meters, the craft gained speed and then shot off into the distance at tremendous speed."* You can read the whole of the Tony James interview here:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/nottingham/spotlight/2002/03/ufo_tony_james.shtml



Bonsall Moor

Picture Credit:

<http://www.walkingbritain.co.uk/walks/walksv2/images/vw127c.jpg>

I'm sure that many of you have heard of the Halewood LITS. Halewood is on Merseyside, not far from Liverpool. They have been appearing since 2002, including sightings from this year, so I'll just mention those seen during the month of December.

On 2nd December 2003, late in the evening, a lady reported seeing a circle of six red lights flying so close together that they didn't seem to be aeroplanes. About an hour earlier a gentleman had seen three white lights slowing travelling across the sky. In fact he'd got not only his wife, but also the neighbours, to go out and watch them for about ten minutes. At least a dozen lights were seen, and they moved along the horizon, only to eventually disappear towards the Moon, one by one. Photographs were taken, and the control tower at John Lennon Airport had seen them, although they hadn't shown up on the radar. The control tower added that many other people had also called to report them, but so far there had been no explanation of what they were. A witness who had seen them from his home in Woolton reported them to the Liverpool Coast Guard, but they'd received no other reports, and added that there had been no meteor activity during that particular time.

A further witness had seen the lights on 4th December, and had also managed to take video footage of them. And yet another couple came forward to report their sighting on the same date. They described seeing ten to twelve reddish/orange lights travelling in groups of twos, quite far apart. Later the lights changed and all mixed together while still moving around.

These lights were next seen on 29th December, and once again two separate witnesses managed to capture them on film. One part of the footage, around twenty minutes long, showed them moving relative to each other; which shows they were not simply being blown around by the wind but had their own propulsion system.

On the same night another gentleman saw not only the lights but also what he described as looking like a carousel in the sky. It was round, and glowed with a bright white light, and had about a dozen orange lights at the bottom that seemed to be pulsating. The witness also saw three parachute shaped objects that were lit up, with another two appearing very shortly afterwards. Meanwhile a whole host of people in a local supermarket car park saw the lights. In that report the lights were described as being bright orange, and floating in the sky. To begin with only one large light was seen, but soon there were two more groups, one of three and another of four. Shortly after that, the large one broke into two separate lights and went off in different directions. All the lights seemed to move at different speeds, with some even coming to a complete stop at times. And, as in some of the other reports, no sounds were heard.

You can read a full description of the events in an article entitled: "*Halewood Lights In The Sky (LITS) 2002-2005*" at this link:
http://www.mara.org.uk/Halewood_LITS.htm



Halewood Lights in the Sky (LITS)

Picture credit: <http://www.mara.org.uk/halewoodlits.JPG>

Picture credit: http://www.mara.org.uk/LITS2003_1.jpg

Bringing things right up to date I'll finish with this story from Huddersfield that was reported on 2nd January 2004. An elderly gentleman said that he'd been very late going to bed, a few days previously, as he'd been watching television. What he'd seen was a bright light in the sky that appeared to remain stationary for the fifteen minutes he'd been looking at it before finally going to bed. During that time another UFO came into view, travelling very fast, and he was positive that it wasn't a plane, or a helicopter, as he'd often seen those flying over. He described both UFOs as being round, with many lights on them. But the local police hadn't received any other reports of this sighting. You can read the short report here:

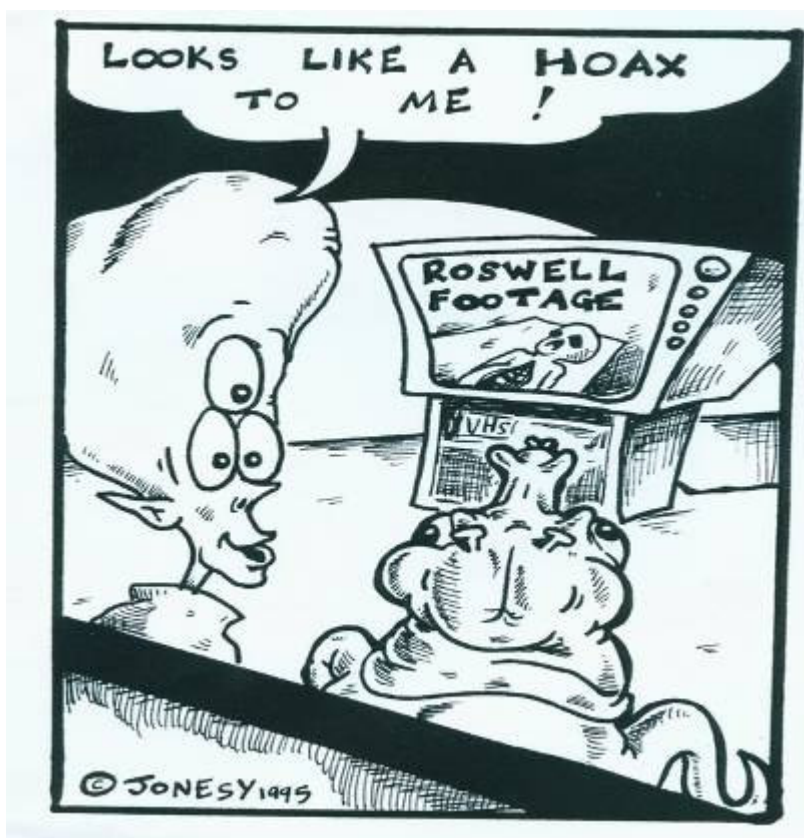
http://ichuddersfield.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/content_objectid=13775671_method=full_siteid=50060_headline=-UFOs-spotted-over-town-name_page.html

These are just a few of the cases that have happened in the UK over the years, and I suspect there are far more if you want to go searching for them. Some of the ones I've included may be true, and some might simply be down to the affects of too much Christmas Cheer!

Have any of these cases been solved, or exposed as a hoax? I don't know, but, as I said at the beginning, it's a busy time of year. So if you're really intrigued you could always spend some time trying to find out, especially if you're looking for something to do over this holiday season.

Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and keep your eyes on the skies!

Kithra <http://kithraskrystalkave.org.uk>



Fortean Times

An announcement

After careful consideration, the management team at the *Fortean Times* have decided on a fundamental change of policy in relation to how the magazine is sold.

After careful study of a market research report that we commissioned, we have decided to advise retailers not to sell the magazine to anyone under the age of 60. If you appear younger, you may be asked to provide age related documentary proof.

The principle reason for this is that we have discovered that our main readership grouping seems to be in the 80 to 110 year old age range. It would appear that our editorial style, choice of subject matter, magazine layout and commissioned writers are so archaic and out of touch with anything resembling reality that its only appeal appears to be to the "Barely Alive" age range more than any other. It does explain why *Saga* approached us recently with a view to a take over, an offer we declined.

But we feel that restricting readership to those 80 and over is not being fair to the bulk of our younger fans and so we've lowered the minimum age barrier to 60, a move that I am sure will please another 150 or so people nationally.

But have no fear; there will be no other changes to our successful policy of bringing you the most outstanding and fascinating Fortean stories around, just like we've been doing for the last 3,000 years or so. Who can forget those classics like, "*The Ice Cream Cone That Turned Green*" and "*Dog Craps Pink Poo*", real gems of examples of the high standards we employ in bringing our readers the very best.



Number 10 and Spin

By Andrew Pike, FRAS



2003 UB313

No, don't panic! I am not going to talk about Number 10 Downing Street and politics but Planet 10 instead - although the spin is not a million light years away! However, having said that and because of the current political news in the UK, I cannot resist telling a story of something the politician Kenneth Clarke said on BBC's Question Time some years ago.

As UK readers may know, Clarke is running for the leadership of Her Majesty's Opposition as a replacement for Michael (I see no flying triangle) Howard, not much of a replacement in my opinion. On that political programme, Clarke tried to show how consistent he is with his policies by saying: "I am as constant as the North Star."

Well done Mr Clarke - the North Star is a variable star, which means it fluctuates in brightness on a regular (or irregular) basis!! Let us hope that should he achieve the impossible and become leader of the opposition, and then achieve the equally impossible task of becoming Prime Minister, he does not give the UK astronomy budget to the astrologers!

So, I leave the boring world of politics, its grey characters and infinite expanse of charisma bypasses for more interesting infinite expanses - astronomy and in particular the tenth planet of the Solar System.

Astronomers have now discovered Planet 10 and with it more controversy. The planet, named 2003 UB313 is about three times as distant as Pluto and takes 560 years to orbit the Sun. Reportedly, its discoverers Michael Brown, David Rabinowitz and Chadwick Trujillo have unofficially named the world Xena after the television programme *Xena, Princess Warrior*! I ask you, only in America!

Anyway that name is unlikely to pass the strict naming rules of the International Astronomical Union, the World's governing body of astronomy. Firstly because there is already an object in the Solar System called Xena, it's an asteroid, and secondly the name is not in keeping with the classical naming of planets. If the IAU let that name slip through what will we call the eleventh planet? Scooby Doo?

For now the 'planet' keeps its original designation of 2003 UB313. While we are on that subject, let me clear up some views from conspiracy theorists and, so to speak, nip this one in the bud. The designation is two years old not because of some conspiracy to hide the discovery from the world, especially when we look at the controversial views about Planet X, Planet 12 or Niburu. 2003 UB313 was discovered on 8 January 2005, but as with all such discoveries the astronomical photographic archives were raided to find what astronomers call pre-discovery sightings. These were indeed found and with it the fact that an earlier sighting had been made when it was thought to be an asteroid. As such it was given the asteroid designation of 2003 UB313 because that is when it was discovered - in 2003. The asteroid designation stays until the IAU says otherwise.



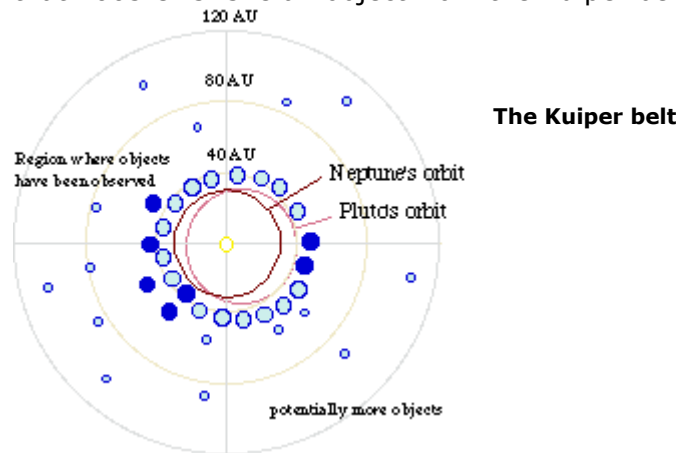
Pluto

There have also been conspiracy theories surrounding the fact that when the re-discovery was made in January 2005 astronomers still kept the details secret. This is rubbish. In astronomy whenever a discovery is made it is not instantly announced. It needs to be checked with other astronomers; also pre-discovery sightings need to be checked for data before an announcement. When astronomers are certain of the facts then the press are told. There would soon be a string of complaints if such checks were not done and wrong details were announced. It is one of those cases where you are damned if you do and damned if you don't. It is only with further sightings that it became clear the asteroid was indeed a planet beyond Pluto. This is not unusual; anybody familiar with the discoveries of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto will know that these were also missed time and again and classified incorrectly several times before enough data was available to realise what was really being observed. If the conspiracy spin doctors can do any better give it a try!

One problem with this asteroid classification was the brightness of the object. It is so bright that it was believed to be a nearby asteroid and therefore based on the available data in 2003 it was thought it was bright because it was nearby in the inner Solar System. When an object is so bright it is due to one of three things, sometimes a combination of the three: it is close, large or extremely reflective. Now that there is more data available we realise it is bright because it is large and further away. Indeed it is far larger than even Pluto on the edge of the planetary system and much further away. Further investigations suggested a size of 3,000 kilometres in diameter, one and a halftimes the size of Pluto.

Various other factors have to be ruled out. One for example is the possibility it is very reflective and therefore smaller. However, the most reflective an object can be is 100%. If that is assumed with 2003 UB313 then it makes the object bigger than Pluto to start with. The fact is it will be less than 100% reflective and that just

indicates it must be larger still. It turns out the object reflects 60% of the light falling on it. That makes it similar to Pluto and Neptune's moon Triton in composition (Triton is believed to be almost a twin of Pluto). The reason behind this thinking is the spectral analysis of the surface material. It was found to be methane ice, just like the surface coating of Pluto and Triton. As such it fits with the idea that 2003 UB313 is an object from the Kuiper belt based on the orbit of Pluto.



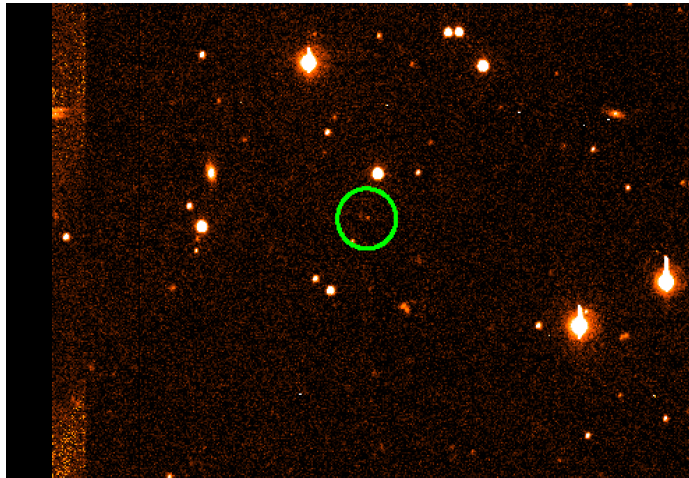
The Kuiper belt is similar to the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter inasmuch as it is a belt of debris orbiting at about 39 astronomical units (au) from the Sun (one au is the distance between the Sun and Earth or 93 million miles). The debris in the Kuiper belt is largely icy bodies generally called ice dwarfs. Not so long ago it became clear that Pluto may just be the largest of these bodies, in the same way as Ceres is the largest asteroid in the asteroid belt. This created a problem still raging to this day. We do not regard Ceres as a planet, so should we do the same for Pluto?

When Ceres was discovered it was because astronomers thought there was an undiscovered planet between Mars and Jupiter; the search turned up only a belt of debris with Ceres the largest object, but far, far too small to be a planet. When astronomers thought there was a planet beyond Neptune the search resulted in Pluto. That time the body was planetary in size and the debris in the associated Kuiper belt did not turn up for many decades. It is not quite the same situation, but very similar. Even Pluto's status as largest Kuiper object has slipped from its list of honours.

The discovery of 2003 VB313 has added to the controversy. The orbit of 2003 VB313 is larger than Pluto and seems to be associated with the Kuiper belt. 2003 VB313's orbit may go out as far as 97 au but it also comes in to about 38 au, closer to the Sun than Pluto. That suggests 2003 VB313 may also be a Kuiper object travelling out to a distance orbit at times. This has raised the question again about Pluto's planetary status not only because it may just be a large Kuiper object, but it is now no longer the largest, that honour now goes to 2003 VB313.

Pluto was on shaky ground as a planet before this new discovery, now we cannot even say it deserves the status of planet by virtue of its size. Its eccentric (oval) orbit also calls it into question. Planets have near perfect circular orbits and although the eccentricity is less for Pluto than 2003 VB313, it is looking as if it is similar enough to call everything into question. The inclination of the orbits are also large compared to the other planets. Pluto can wander well away from the plane of the Solar System, 2003 VB313 wanders even more. One question is: How many other such eccentric wandering bodies are there of planetary size out there waiting to be found? If there are others can we start calling all these objects planets?

And what of Sedna? When Sedna was discovered a short while ago, it was thought to be Planet 10, its size let it down, it is only three-quarters that of Pluto. At that point Pluto looked safe, it was large, the largest Kuiper object and Sedna was no threat to its planetary status. That is no longer the case with this new discovery of 2003 VB313.



Sedna

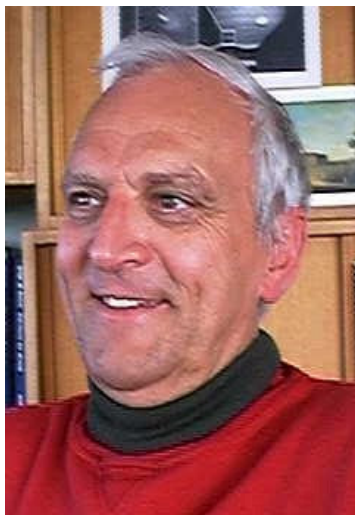
At about the time this article is sent off to UFO Review, the IAU will meet again to decide the fate of Pluto and 2003 VB313. It was only a short while ago that Pluto was allowed to retain its planetary status when the IAU looked at the question, following Sedna's discovery and other Kuiper objects. They decided Pluto is a planet and that is an end to the matter. It seems it was not the end after all.

Also at about the same time a second attempt will be made to view the object in the infra red to determine size more accurately. A first attempt resulted in no detection of the planet at all, but that later turned out to be Human error - the telescope was pointed at the wrong part of the sky!

I have mixed feelings about the IAU and any decision it might come to. On the one hand Pluto has always been a planet since Clyde Tombaugh discovered it way back in 1930. Tombaugh discovered it as effectively his first astronomical job as a young man. He went on to live to almost 100 and so for almost a century nobody had the heart to down grade the planet to Kuiper object.

For many years it was not clear just how many odd bodies were out there anyway. Partly for sentimental reasons and partly due to lack of knowledge about the outer Solar System, the IAU let Pluto hold on to its planetary status. The sentimental reasons remain, but with growing knowledge about the depths of our planetary system the game has changed. The IAU may still allow Pluto to remain a planet, but if they do that rule must also apply to 2003 UB313. What is the IAU to do?

One man involved in this knotty problem is Professor Iwan Williams. Professor Williams is President of the IAU Division III which deals with Planetary Systems Sciences. He said: "For 12 months we have been debating what constitutes a planet." He also points out that with the vast increase in our knowledge of the Solar System over the past few decades, if we were to sit down and define things today even large planets like Jupiter and Saturn may have their planetary status removed. I am sure this tricky decision will be dealt with properly by Prof Williams. I know the way he thinks because as a postgraduate, he was one of my Professors (he took me for a course entitled The Solar System).



Professor Iwan Williams

The outer Solar System is a jumble and becoming more so each year. It is effectively the bits the celestial builders threw together and bodged up at the end of the job! It is almost as if the main job was done in the inner parts and all the rubbish was swept to the outer boundary and never removed. There, planets are uncertain amongst a jumble of building rubble with orbits all over the show, not nearly as well ordered as the main planetary system out as far as Neptune, although that too has its own problems. Pluto has an eccentric orbit bringing it in closer than Neptune for a while, so planets 8, 9 and 10 all switch order in a cosmic dance as they orbit the Sun. So at times Planet 9 (Pluto) becomes Planet 8, Planet 8 (Neptune) at times becomes Planet 9, Planet 10 (2003 UB313) becomes Planet 9, etc, etc! Even Neptune's mystery moon, Triton appears to be a captured Kuiper belt object, it is planetary sized yet we call it a moon!

The problem the IAU face really stems from our desire to label and pigeonhole things. In truth there are no large stars, no smaller stars going down to brown dwarfs (failed stars) and then down to Hot Jupiters, Jupiters and Saturns, small gas giants, rocky planets, moons, asteroids, comets, rock, rubble, dust and interstellar molecules and atoms. In reality there is just one object in a whole spectrum of sizes from the large stars down to planets, moons and finally the dust in the planetary plane which gives rise to the zodiacal lights. Just like the colours of the rainbow there is a spectrum of infinite stages from one colour to the next. There are not seven colours to the rainbow, there are a smooth, smearing of an infinite number of colours. The same is true of astronomical bodies. There are an infinite number of classes from huge large scale galaxy clusters down to fine dust and atoms. The problem will never be solved so long as we label and pigeonhole things. It is a problem I would not like to tackle but if I did, I think I would have to say this:

Keep Pluto as a planet. Although the smallest of the planets it is relatively large, orbits the Sun and is big enough to retain a thin atmosphere. Therefore, 2003 UB313 must also be a planet, and as such should be regarded as Planet 10 in order of distance from the Sun. It does not matter it comes in closer than Pluto for a short while because Pluto does the same with Neptune's orbit.

Set the lower threshold for a planet at Pluto's size; anything smaller is not a planet anything larger is. Pluto is the smallest planet so keep that rule. To me it is just about on the lower limit anyway.

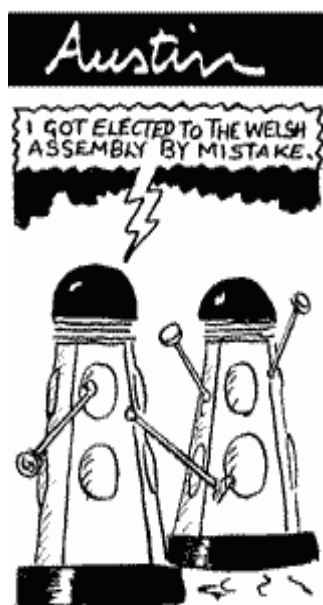
There will no doubt be other large objects out there and if the next one out is larger than Pluto it can be Planet 11 and so on.

If the decision goes against Pluto it will be a sad fact that Tombaugh spent so many years finding a planet that was not a planet, but the man did do a lot of good for astronomy and he did discover the first Kuiper belt object. The astronomer Giuseppe Piazzi still went down in astronomical history for discovering Ceres, and he is far less well known than Clyde Tombaugh. I hope the IAU will decide to keep Pluto as a planet, I see more reasons for that than to down grade it.

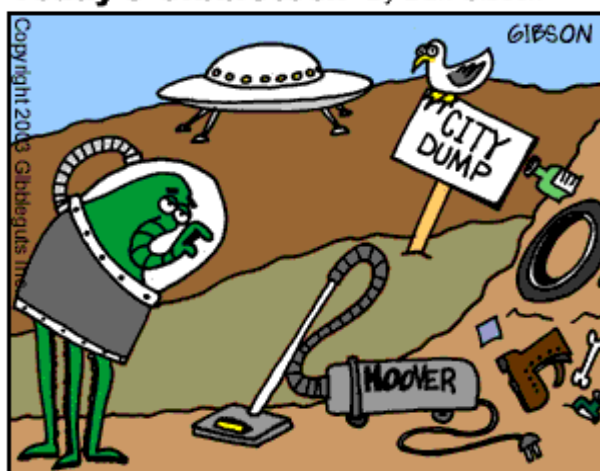
Some might say how does all this fit in with Planet X? Well it depends on your point of view. If you follow the ideas from ancient science, ancient prophecies and the views surrounding the idea of Planet X, Planet 12 or Niburu then you will see things differently to others. Planet X means different things to different people. To the astronomer this is an exciting new chapter, but then Planet X to astronomers is not the same object as Planet X to those who work with ancient views like Niburu and Planet 12. If we try to bring Niburu and its mysteries into this discovery of 2003 UB313 we may be closer to solving that mystery, we may not.

What 2003 UB313's discovery says to me is this: The outer Solar System seems to have been disrupted at some stage. This belief has been around in astronomy for some time. Uranus spins on its side, Pluto enters the orbit of Neptune for 20 years, Triton seems to have been maybe a planet of its own or a large Kuiper object captured by Neptune, and now we have the strange orbit of 2003 UB313.

It seems 2003 UB313 has shown that the further out we go the more strange and disrupted the orbits of planets become. Maybe, just maybe, something went through them like a pack of billiard balls being scattered when another is fired into the pack. Maybe, just maybe, that something was another object like a planet, death star or companion of the Sun which is further out and thus in an even more eccentric orbit. It is speculation, but one which cannot be dismissed out of hand just yet. I am not a great supporter of the idea of Planet 12 or Niburu, but I remain open minded.



Today's Gobbletoon By Dan Gibson



What's a hot babe like you doin' in a dump like this?

Searching for the Truth

(Always Telling the Truth Means Never Having to Remember Anything)

"A Tribute to Walter Haut" 01-02-06

by
Dennis G. Balthaser



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During my affiliation with the International UFO Museum and Research Center here in Roswell, from 1996 until 1998, as a full time volunteer and as the UFO Investigator, I had the opportunity to meet many of the well-known researchers in this field of Ufology. Since then I have developed close personal relationships with a few of those, and continue to do my research in conjunction with our desire to find the truth. That of course is not the case with a larger number of "researchers" I have met.

The same is true for witnesses of the 1947 Roswell Incident that I have met over the years. Several of the many witnesses I have met and/or interviewed, have elaborated on their testimonies, while some have presented hoaxes, and still others have not provided any validation for their claims. Fortunately for those of us that continue to look for answers to the Roswell Incident, there are some witnesses that stand out, (at least to me), as being extremely credible. Walter Haut was one of those individuals that I've always had the utmost respect for, and who I will be miss since he passed away on December 15, 2005. As one who knew Walter fairly well, and had the opportunity to visit with daily for two and a half years, I felt a tribute to him was in order at this time.

In 1947, then Lt. Walter Haut, was a key figure in the Roswell Incident due to being the person that wrote the now famous newspaper article of July 8, 1947, "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region".

It was quite an honor for me to meet Walter in person when I began my affiliation with the UFO Museum in 1996. After all, nothing can be written about the Roswell Incident without including Walter in the events that took place some 58 ½ years ago. It was even more rewarding for me to be able to visit with him daily during my two and a half years with the museum. During that time, Walter was at the

museum almost every day, and would enjoy meeting the visitors that came by, always with a smile, a little kidding and explaining his involvement in the incident, as the public relations officer that wrote the newspaper article. Walter was always a gentleman, never looking for notoriety, enjoying life in his retirement years. If he wasn't occupied with visitors, I would walk into his office and we'd discuss a variety of topics, which always amazed me, because he had such an interesting life, and freely talked about it.

Walter was born in Chicago in 1922, and one of my favorite stories he shared with me several times was that when he was young, he worked for a drug store in the Chicago area and made deliveries to local customers that ordered merchandise from the drug store. One of those customers was the "Capone family". Walter remembered how most customers he made deliveries to would tip him 10 or 15 cents, while the Capone's would tip \$1.00, \$5.00, even \$10.00. He indicated that the Capone family was very generous and always smiled when he shared that story with me.

I'm sure very few researchers, and particularly the general public knew much about Walter's military career, other than his involvement with the Roswell Incident as a young Lieutenant, who was the public relations officer for the Roswell Army Air Field in 1947.



During WWII, Walter (*left*) flew some 35 missions over Japan as a bombardier in B-29's. He received numerous medals for his service, but one of the experiences I enjoyed hearing from him the most, was his description of how those missions were accomplished. He indicated that being a bombardier was a great job, because the missions were sometimes 18-20 hours flying time from their home base to the target, and back home. He said he would sleep on the way to the target and being located up front in the B-29, the pilot or co-pilot would kick him when they got close to the target to wake him up. He would then take over flying and when the target was in his bombsites, he would release the weapons. His job completed he would sleep again on the ride back to their home base.



B-29 bomber, "Enola Gay," which dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan, August 6, 1945; shown at Roswell Army Air Field after the 509th Bomb Wing relocated to RAAF after World War II (Courtesy of Joe Davis).

Several times we talked about the 509th bomb wing's involvement in the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan to end the Second World War.

Walter also shared his involvement during the testing of an atomic bomb in the Pacific Ocean, during Operation Crossroads in 1946. Walter was in an airplane that flew through the mushroom cloud the bomb created when tested in the ocean and he actually dropped the instruments in it. We would "kid" each other about him "glowing" afterwards, which he of course didn't, but he did say it was a little "bumpy" flying that close to it.



Walter would often mention Colonel "Butch" Blanchard (*left*) with much admiration and respect. Blanchard was in charge of the 509th bomb wing here in Roswell in 1947, when Walter was the public relations officer for the base. Blanchard was also the base commander. They had an exceptional relationship according to Walter, and Walter talked about that relationship many times. I remember sharing a similar relationship I had with a Warrant Officer Philpot when I was in the service, so I could relate to his feelings and the respect he had for Blanchard. They were apparently quite a team, and Walter would talk about how "the old man" would call him into his office, where Blanchard (a Colonel), would ask him, (a Lieutenant), for his thoughts about something that Blanchard was thinking about.

Walter was very active in many civic organizations in Roswell after he got out of the military and he and his wife decided to stay in Roswell. He often talked about how they enjoyed living in Roswell, even though the first time he was assigned here, he wondered where Roswell New Mexico was.

My life as a person and as a researcher of the Roswell Incident has been extremely enriched because I had the opportunity to meet and get to know a man named Walter Haut. I will always treasure those times where he and I sat down and just visited with each other. He had a fascinating life in his childhood, being involved with WWII, the Roswell Incident, original founder of the UFO museum and the many civic accomplishments he achieved.

I will miss you Walter.

Dennis G. Balthaser

Web site: WWW.truthseekeratroswell.com

Email: truthskr@roswell.net

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The end of another fine edition etc. which I hope you've enjoyed. If you wish to contribute to UFO Review, please send any material to Stuart@uforeview.net

See you in a couple of months

Stuart